

Statement of CEO of the State Atomic Energy Corporation 'Rosatom' Sergey Kirienko at the Plenary Session of the 58th IAEA General Conference

Mr. President,

Please accept my congratulations on your election to the position of the chairman of the 58th Plenary Session of the IAEA General Conference. You can fully rely on the support of the Russian delegation.

We welcome the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and the Republic of Vanuatu as new members of the Agency.

1. The Russian Federation positively evaluates the IAEA work and stands for further strengthening of the Agency potential. Over the year since the latest General Conference we have been progressively expanding our collaboration with the IAEA.

We support the central role of the Agency as a coordinator of international cooperation in a wide range of areas – from nuclear safety and nuclear security, nuclear non-proliferation to development of nuclear infrastructure. We especially value the impartiality, commercial and political neutrality of the IAEA.

Taking into account the scale and diversity of the Agency objectives, we are continuously increasing the voluntary additional support to the IAEA activities. Over the year elapsed, the Russian contribution in the form of extrabudgetary donations, in-kind contributions towards implementation of specific IAEA projects, and assignment of highly qualified cost-free experts to work in the Secretariat cumulatively exceeded our obligatory contributions into the regular budget.

The Russian Federation concurs with the conclusion made in the concluding statement of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century that nuclear power is an important source for strengthening energy safety required for sustainable development and mitigation of climate changes.

Our firm belief confirmed by many years of experience is that nuclear power industry is a strategic area with extremely long life cycles. It cannot and must not depend on situational changes of political climate. For example, if we sign a contract for construction of a nuclear power plant today – it means that construction will take 5-7 years, the plant will operate for 60-80 years, and it will take 10-15 years more to decommission it. Thus, an average life cycle of a nuclear power plant is 80-100 years. It exceeds the average life expectancy of an individual, and greatly exceeds the life span of any political event.

I would like to specially point out a good practice of the visits to nuclear facilities organized with support of the IAEA Secretariat for the permanent representatives to the IAEA. This year, Russia organized the second visit of the kind, this time to northern technological facilities of ROSATOM – Atomflot, Saida Bay site for on-shore storage of reactor compartments, and Kola NPP. I know that similar visits are being organized by other countries. This includes the most recent visit to Mochovce NPP in Slovakia and earlier visits to nuclear power plants in Hungary and Czech Republic.

2. Mr President,

Nuclear power industry celebrated 60 years this year. In 1954, in the Russian town Obninsk, the first nuclear power plant to be ever connected to the grid commenced its operation.

The Russian Federation continues active development of nuclear power industry. Within one year we are approaching commissioning of three units domestically and one unit abroad, together with our Indian colleagues. The units built in Russia are Unit 3 of Rostov NPP, Unit 1 of Novovoronezh-2, and Unit 4 of Beloyarsk NPP with the new fast neutron reactor BN-800. We are currently conducting physical tests preceding power operation of this unit.

Russia traditionally pays a lot of attention to fundamental and applied research as a necessary prerequisite for evolutionary and innovative development of nuclear technologies.

One of the most important events of this year is the development of a new type of high-purity radiation-resistant steel grades for reactor pressure vessels of the new models of WWER reactors. Application of these materials allows guaranteeing over 100 years of operation of the nuclear power plants of Russian design.

We are consistently implementing an integrated program of transitioning to closed fuel cycle. Two technologies of fast neutron reactors are being developed in parallel – sodium-cooled and heavy metal-cooled. This project aimed to attain a qualitatively new level of development of nuclear industry is known as “PRORYV (Breakthrough)” project. Its purpose is to create a pilot nuclear power complex, where a single site will accommodate a nuclear power plant with advanced safety performance based on fast neutron reactor technology, nuclear fuel recycling and re-fabrication facilities without separation of actinides, and facilities for preparation of all types of RW for ultimate disposal without any disturbance to natural radioecological equilibrium.

We also collaborate with our colleagues in the ITER project aimed to master a fundamentally new source of energy – controlled thermonuclear fusion. Our experts designed and commissioned a unique test bench for thermal tests of life-size prototypes of the divertor assemblies for the ITER.

In October 2014 Saint-Petersburg will host a major event under the auspices of the IAEA – the 25th Fusion Energy Conference. Such forums are important milestones for setting priorities in the research activities. Today the number of the conference participants representing almost 50 countries exceeds 750. We will be glad to see all our partners.

3. The RW management principles adopted by the international community are enshrined in law in the Russian Federation. In the 20-25 years to come, we intend to accomplish the bulk of the work to eliminate such legacy. This includes reprocessing of all spent nuclear fuel with disposal of all wastes generated in the process, decommissioning of the facilities posing nuclear and radiation hazards, and rehabilitation of the radiation-contaminated territories. We are convinced that compulsory, safe and economically efficient disposal of wastes has to protect the health of future generations and liberate them from the burden of stockpiled wastes.

Industrial infrastructure for resolution of the SNF and RW issues through transition to the closed nuclear fuel cycle is being created at the site of Krasnoyarsk Mining and Chemical Combine to augment the existing spent fuel storage and medium- and high-activity radioactive waste handling facilities. The “wet” storage has been renovated and a new “dry” storage has been built for RBMK SNF, construction of two more “dry” storage facilities for WWER-1000 and RBMK-1000 SNF is nearing completion. A pilot and demonstration center with the throughput of 250 tons per year for development of innovative SNF reprocessing technologies and MOX-fuel fabrication facility for fast reactors are under construction.

The issue of RW and SNF management does not know borders and requires broad cooperation on the intergovernmental, regional and global level. In this respect, we support the decision to conduct a study

on “Multilateral Approaches to the Back End of Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Drivers and Legal, Institutional and Financial Impediments” in the framework of INPRO. The Russian Federation will take active part in this study and will continue rendering support to INPRO in general.

Let me give another example of our efforts in this area. The first training course developed jointly with the IAEA in the framework of the IAEA technical cooperation project in the field of remediation started today in Obninsk. The purpose of the project is to improve qualification of the personnel involved with the intergovernmental targeted program “Remediation of the territories of EurAsEC member states affected by uranium mining industries”.

4. A lot has been achieved during the past year in the area of international cooperation. The first concrete was cast on the construction site of the second stage of Tianwan NPP in China. Construction of the two-unit Belarus NPP was initiated. Russia won the tender for construction of the first NPP in Jordan. We are responsibly taking these manifestations of confidence.

In June, the first power unit of Kudankulam NPP in India was brought to full power. The second unit is being prepared for initial criticality.

Intergovernmental agreements for construction of a two-unit NPP at Paks site have been signed with Hungary. Contractual documents for construction of Hanhikivi NPP in Finland have been endorsed. These units are of the most modern Generation III+ design, fully compliant with international standards and with very stringent requirements of the regulatory authorities of the host countries.

Activities have been initiated at the Rooppur NPP site in Bangladesh, where the first in the country Russian-design two-unit power plant is being constructed.

I would like to emphasize that we believe it to be of extreme importance to ensure, together with our partners, not only construction of the modern nuclear power plants, but also the development of nuclear infrastructure required for sustainable and safe implementation of national nuclear power programs.

In the course of the past year we have completed the U.S. - Russia HEU-LEU program, in the course of which 500 tons of weapons-grade HEU were converted to fuel for NPPs. This is equivalent to destruction of about 20,000 nuclear warheads. Over the past 20 years the relations between the U.S. and the Russian Federation on the political level differed, but both parties performed their obligations in good faith.

In August 2014 we, jointly with our colleagues from Hungary, successfully accomplished a technically complicated program of retrieval and transportation of SNF from Paks NPP. The last shipment of fuel was delivered to Mayak plant for reprocessing by railroad through the territory of Ukraine.

I would like to underscore that the Ukrainian nuclear power plants continue being timely supplied with the Russian nuclear fuel. All obligations are fully and timely met. Safety and reliability of operation of nuclear facilities, including those constructed per our design abroad, is an overriding priority for the Russian Federation.

5. Our approach to development of the nuclear industry is open and transparent. Public support is a crucial factor for development of the nuclear power industry.

In order to keep the public informed, there is an open internet portal displaying in real time the radiation background in the vicinity of Rosatom facilities and enterprises.

The institute of public hearings ensuring dialog with public is statutorily prescribed. No activities on the nuclear facilities can be initiated in Russia without favorable outcome of such hearings.

Information centers, the visitors of which receive open information about modern nuclear power plants and their safety features, are being created.

Presently there are 17 such centers in operation in Russia and 4 abroad – two of them in Turkey, one in Bangladesh and one in Vietnam. By the end of the year, another center will be open in Belarus. Today we plan to sign a Memorandum on popularization of nuclear power industry with Kazakhstan, according to which similar center is to be opened there.

During the period of operation of our centers they received over 1.2 million visitors, 80% of them being schoolchildren and students. The project of creation of information centers was recognized as the best communication project in the nuclear industry and received an international award of the European Nuclear Society.

The meticulous work with public opinion starts to bear fruits – in 2013 the fraction of supporters of the use of peaceful atom in Russia reached 72%, and this figure is real. We view such a level of support as an important factor of development of the nuclear power industry in the XXI century.

6. Russia has been and is playing an active role in maintaining and strengthening international regimes of nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation.

Nuclear safety is the cornerstone of the Russian strategy of development of the nuclear power industry. We multifacetedly participate in implementation of the IAEA's Nuclear Safety Action Plan, and provide financial and expert support for preparation of the Final Report on the Fukushima accident.

At the 6th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety, reasonable and important revisions were made to the mechanisms of the convention with our active involvement. At this stage it is important not to undermine the foundation of the NSC – the text of the Convention. It is crucial for maintaining common legal framework of obligations under the convention and unanimity of the parties.

One of the key factors of safety is independence of the regulatory authority. The Russian regulator Rostekhnadzor does not only ensure implementation of and compliance with the most stringent national safety standards, but also actively participates in international cooperation. Based on the results of the IAEA follow-up mission assessing the Russian regulator, Rostekhnadzor was recognized as effective and independent state regulatory authority in the field of use of nuclear energy.

We support the IAEA activities related to nuclear security by means of annual voluntary contributions into Nuclear Security Fund, as well as through topical training courses for the IAEA member-states regularly organized in Russia. We share the opinion that the central role in the international cooperation for nuclear security belongs to the Agency. Exchange of best practices and development of technical recommendations for the member states should have the highest priority, conditionally to the following fundamental principle: primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security on their territory resides with the Member States choosing the mechanisms to be used to ensure it at their discretion.

I would like to specially emphasize close collaboration with the IAEA Secretariat on the issues of improvement of safeguards system. We count on continuation of constructive dialog on this subject on the platform of the Agency.

We are finalizing the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the IAEA on transit traffic of the uranium of the IAEA LEU Bank through our territory. This is our another contribution into development of guaranteed supply system in collaboration with the Agency. In the same time, we maintain the guaranteed reserve of LEU in Angarsk continuously prepared for shipment at the request of the IAEA.

7. In conclusion I would like to reiterate that development of nuclear power industry is to be taken very responsibly; it requires competent approach and governmental support, and does not tolerate political games. Nuclear power industry cannot be locked within national borders. An optimal and the only acceptable environment for it is broad international cooperation under the leadership of the IAEA, which we have always supported and will keep supporting in the future.

Thank you for your attention.