

STATEMENT BY MS ANNU TANDON, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT & MEMBER OF
INDIAN DELEGATION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAEA FOR THE YEAR 2011
AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
NOVEMBER 05, 2012

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Director General, IAEA for preparing the Annual Report for the year 2011, as contained in document (85): note by the SG (A/67/152).

Mr. President,

The increasing global demand for energy, as well as concerns about climate change, volatile fossil fuel prices and the security of energy supplies remain essential factors in deciding an energy mix for any country. This is aptly reflected by the observation in the report that despite the nuclear accident in Japan in March 2011, nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programmes, but also for developing countries with growing energy requirements. We note that the IAEA's post-accident projections of global nuclear power capacity in 2030 are slightly lower than previously projected as some countries have deferred their decisions to introduce nuclear programmes.

Mr. President,

The Fukushima accident elicited a global response towards enhancing nuclear safety with Member States reassessing the safety of existing nuclear power plants. While the results of these reassessments would be further refined as necessary, in the light of new information that might emerge in the future, it is a matter of satisfaction that the data collected by the IAEA and the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) shows that in 2011 the level of nuclear safety among the 435 operating nuclear power plants in operation around the world remained high. However, as Fukushima has demonstrated there is no room for complacency. The IAEA should also take all necessary measures to allay misapprehensions in the public and Member States about the safety of nuclear power plants taking into account the current advances in relevant design and technology areas. Therefore, we would like to call on all the stakeholders to work collectively to continue to enhance nuclear safety. In this context we would like to encourage the IAEA to make concerted efforts for free flow of latest information, technology and equipment pertaining to nuclear safety among the Member States.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Energy has a crucial role to play in achieving the objectives of India's sustainable economic growth. At the same time India is extensively engaged in

development of nuclear technologies in diverse fields extending beyond nuclear power. This includes applications for improved crop varieties, crop protection and radiation based post-harvest technologies, radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy for diseases, technologies for safe drinking water, etc.

Mr. President,

The nuclear power programme in India is oriented towards maximising the energy potential of available Uranium resources and the utilisation of its large Thorium reserve. We believe that available global uranium resources cannot sustain the projected expansion of nuclear power without adopting the closed fuel cycle approach and subsequent adoption of thorium fuel cycle. In this context we would like to mention the IAEA technical meeting in October 2011 held in India where over 50 experts from 20 Member States deliberated on diverse subjects related to Thorium. The participants noted Thorium's promise in extending the global deployment of nuclear power and concluded that the technology is sufficiently mature for initial commercial deployment. We encourage the IAEA to further engage itself in Thorium fuel cycle. With its excellent physical and nuclear properties Thorium is widely and rightly viewed as the 'fuel of the future'.

Mr. President,

Presently India has 20 operating reactors with an installed capacity of 4780 Megawatts and seven reactors under construction with an installed capacity of 5300 Megawatts. The first unit of the 1000 Mega Watt electrical Pressurized Water Reactor at Kudankulam is very shortly due to attain first criticality. The second unit is to follow soon after. Work is proceeding on four Nuclear Power Plants of indigenous design of 700 Megawatts electrical PHWR type, two each at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan and at Kakrapar, Gujarat. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor of 500 Mega Watt Electrical is also in an advanced stage of construction. A number of other reactor projects are under negotiation with prospective foreign vendors for the setting up of NPPs at different sites.

Mr. President,

We are happy to welcome three new members into the fold of INPRO in 2011. India has been associated with INPRO since its inception and has contributed to its progress. We believe that this programme has a great potential towards making nuclear energy accessible in a safe and sustainable manner, particularly to new entrants embarking on this path. The IAEA, through INPRO, should continue to play a central role in the area of development of innovative technology for safe utilisation of nuclear power.

My delegation fully supports other activities of the IAEA undertaken to stimulate innovation in nuclear power through Technical Working Groups for different reactor technologies, small and medium sized reactors and for non-electric applications. The coordinated research projects organized by the IAEA provide an excellent forum for understanding and development of technology.

Mr. President,

India attaches great importance to the IAEA's work in the fields of nuclear science. We contribute to these activities through participation in the Technical Meetings and coordinated Research Projects and also support the IAEA's programme in nuclear fusion.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes that the IAEA's programme and achievements under nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resources management, protection of the environment, and Industry go a long way in meeting the needs of developing countries. We will continue to provide our support to these IAEA programmes including by way of services of experts and offering seats in reputed institutions for training fellows from Member States.

With these comments, we take note of the IAEA's Annual Report for 2011. India supports the work of IAEA and has cosponsored the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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