

STATEMENT BY MR. ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND  
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 87: REPORT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AT THE 62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 29, 2007

Mr. President,

The delegation of India thanks the Director General, IAEA, for presenting the annual report of the agency to the General Assembly. On the occasion of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is gratifying to recognize the unique place that the IAEA has within the UN system. The prestige, credibility and authority of IAEA in this century rests to a very large measure on the consistent good work done by its Secretariat under the wise leadership of Dr. El Baradei. Over the last half century the growth of the Agency's and India's nuclear programmes have evolved side by side. IAEA's achievements in the past half century have done much to contribute to the emergence of a nuclear dawn in coming years.

The world today is on the threshold of a paradigm shift. On the one hand demand for energy continues to rise and it is clear that 70% of the growth will come from the developing countries. It is imperative that this need is met if the benefits of development are to be accessed more equitably by the vast majority of under privileged mankind in the developing countries. On the other hand there is the challenge of addressing the serious consequences for future generations of unmindful and unsustainable use of fossil energy leading to global warming and climate change. Nuclear power can certainly play an important role in this context by helping to meet the ever growing demand for energy without the serious environmental consequences associated with the use of fossil fuels. India therefore notes and supports all the Agency's activities related to the promotion of nuclear power. We believe that the Agency has a crucial role to play in allaying misapprehensions in the public and Member States about the safe design, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear power plants as well as the waste disposal and environmental aspects taking into due account the current advances in relevant design and technology areas. We encourage the publication of TECDOCS, organization of training workshops and technical conferences, maintenance and dissemination of nuclear knowledge towards achieving this objective.

Mr. President,

India has been pursuing its robust three stage nuclear programme designed to maximize the energy potential from its domestic uranium and thorium resources, which will contribute around 25% share of electricity generation in the country by the year 2050. The objective is to realize the huge energy potential that can be obtained from these nuclear energy resources without having to add to the global carbon dioxide burden. The programme is moving ahead steadily with the first stage consisting of indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) well into a commercially successful programme. The second stage has commenced with the construction of 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR), which is now fairly advanced. The third stage is about to begin with the start of construction of a technology demonstrator, the 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR). The three stages are being implemented sequentially to reach the goal of large scale thorium utilization and are linked through their respective fuel cycles, which are also well underway. During the calendar year 2006, the generation of electricity from domestic nuclear power plants was 17,794 million units (MU's). While Unit-4 of RAPP operated continuously for a record 373 days, Unit-1 of the Kaiga Atomic Power Station recorded an uninterrupted operation for 356 days.

We are looking forward to the possibility of opening up of international civil nuclear cooperation. We expect such cooperation to be sustainable, free from interruptions and consistent with our national policy of closed fuel cycle. Such initiatives also open up the possibility of export of reactors and services. India today is the only country to have a live technology, design and infrastructure for small PHWRs with a unit capacity of 220 MWe, which have a great potential for export, particularly to countries with small grids wishing to enter nuclear power generation with relatively modest investments and infrastructure. Given the large manufacturing base and relatively low manufacturing costs, there is also a potential for India becoming a manufacturing hub for equipment and components for the global nuclear industry.

Mr. President,

India supports all activities of the Agency related to advanced technologies namely, Accelerator Driven Systems, High Temperature Reactors for non-power applications such as hydrogen production and nuclear desalination. We attach great importance to the INPRO programme, (International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles), have been associated with it since its inception, and have contributed significantly to its progress. We are happy to note the continued growth in its membership and stand committed to ensuring the successful implementation of its Phase-2 activities.

In the area of Material technology, we note with approval the Agency's activities aimed at improving the utilization of nuclear fuel for both LWR's (Light Water Reactors) and PHWR's through increased burnup and the associated degradation and failure issues. In this context, India hosted an International Conference on: "Processing, Performance and Phenomena" and a satellite conference on: "Materials Behaviour far from Equilibrium" in cooperation with IAEA in December, 2006, in Mumbai.

Mr. President,

India commends the Agency for the activities related to capacity building and Nuclear Knowledge Maintenance for sustainable energy development aimed at providing training to several Member States in using the analytical tools and databases as detailed in the report.

We take note of and appreciate the Agency's work programme and achievements under nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), water resources management, protection of the environment, and Industry. India has donated a state of the art teletherapy machine Bhabhatron II to PACT with Vietnam being the intended beneficiary. We note and support the Agency's activities envisaged under Nuclear Science.

In the area of nuclear security and physical protection, India has organized a number of workshops and training courses under the aegis of IAEA for the Asia Pacific Region. So far we have conducted four regional training courses on Physical Protection on Nuclear Installations and also regional training courses on Physical Protection of Radioactive sources. In addition, we have conducted regional training courses on advanced equipment and response of criminal unauthorized acts involving nuclear or other radioactive material and on regulatory authority information system training course. India is among the first countries to deposit its instrument of ratification to the amendments to the Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We note with approval the round the clock operations of the Agency's Incident and Emergency Centre, the Emergency Preparedness review conducted by the Agency, and the establishment of a Centre for Advanced Safety Assessments Tools.

In the context of Safety of Nuclear Installations, we note with satisfaction the activities undertaken by the Agency for promoting safety culture in Member States. In India, the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) completed peer reviews of the Atomic Power Stations at Kakrapar, Narora, Kaiga, Rawatbhata and Tarapur. We offered our TAPP-3 unit for pre-startup Peer Review by an expert team of WANO. Similar reviews for RAPP-5 and Kaiga-4 are also planned for the next year.

India attaches high priority to Nuclear Verification and notes with approval all the activities undertaken by the Agency in a transparent and impartial manner. Our delegation has actively participated in the Special Committee on Safeguards and Verification within the framework of the IAEA statute to consider ways and means to strengthen the Safeguards system.

Mr. President,

A global nuclear energy renaissance increasingly appears not just inevitable but a necessity. However, it will rest on fragile foundations unless robust inclusive partnerships are built on the basis of trust and mutual understanding, which will function on a reliable and predictable basis. The adoption of closed fuel cycle options to maximize energy availability needs to be an integral part of this. We have justifiable concerns about the risks related to safety of the environment and

proliferation rising out of irresponsible behaviour of state and non-state actors. However, we need to be even more concerned about the vastly enhanced security risks to which future generations would be exposed as a result of the storage of spent fuel for tens of thousands of years. There are, thus, risks and challenges but they are within the professional competence of existing technology and institutional control. Answers can easily be found if every responsible partner is seen not as a problem but as a part of the solution.

Thank you, Mr. President

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)