

**International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts
10–14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria**
Statement delivered by His Excellency Prakash Kumar Suvedi,
Resident Representative of Nepal to the IAEA

Mr. President,
Director General of IAEA
Distinguished Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the ICONS 2020. I am confident that that under your able leadership, the Conference will conclude successfully. I also appreciate the IAEA Secretariat for the excellent arrangement of this Conference. Words of appreciation also go to the two co-chairs of drafting process for their hard work over the past several months.

Nepal appreciates the agency's contribution in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology as well as in promoting nuclear safety and security. We would like to reiterate that Nepal remains fully committed that any use of nuclear technology should be within the framework of IAEA safeguard.

We welcome the Ministerial Declaration adopted during this Conference. It lays out clear goals and paths. Nepal has been espousing the principles of nuclear non-proliferation as well as that of the nuclear disarmament. Therefore, we are happy to note that the declaration reaffirms nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy as the common goals and recognizes that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security.

We also acknowledge that since the world community expressed commitments to the above stated principle during the International Conference on Nuclear Security in December 2016 a landmark achievement has been made. In September 2017,

Nepal joined many other countries in signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Even though Nepal uses nuclear technology in a limited way for the purpose of medical, agriculture, livestock and disaster management, we recognized the great importance of nuclear related international conventions and treaties from the very beginning. Nepal is either party or signatory to almost all UN conventions related to nuclear non-proliferation. In this context, let me also state that Nepal fully recognizes the importance of various treaties and conventions under the aegis of the IAEA in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology while ensuring its safety and security. We appreciate this fact not only because of whatever limited use of nuclear technology we have at the national level, but also because of its increased applications at the regional and international levels. Therefore, we are committed not only to respect but also to adhere to the fundamental tenets of such treaties and conventions. Such commitments shall serve the basis of international common efforts to strengthen cooperation, as well as to build a safe, secure and peaceful world through effective nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive materials and facilities.

At the domestic front too, Nepal is cognizant to the fact that better management of the nuclear and radiological assets at the state level, firmly adhering to the principles of safety and security, will contribute to the nuclear security world-wide. Though, Nepal has limited application of nuclear technology that too started just in a recent past, our parliament is already discussing a draft nuclear bill. The objective of the bill is to enhance the overall national welfare through peaceful use of nuclear applications undertaking its research and development for the economic and social prosperity of the country. The issues of nuclear security are always at the core of such exercises.

I wish for the successful conclusion of the Conference.

Thank you