

Statement by the head of the delegation **Mr. Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal M.P** of the people's republic of Bangladesh at the conference on the "Humanitarian impact of Nuclear Weapons". (8-9 December, 2014. Vienna)

1 Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

1.1 Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Bangladesh has always pledged abiding, determined and irrevocable commitment to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons by becoming Party to all relevant international legal instruments including the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its Additional Protocol, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as well as IAEA Agreements on safeguards as well as bilateral agreements on nuclear cooperation with the Governments of some of the major 'nuclear power' countries such as the US, Russian Federation and China. The ongoing endeavours to use nuclear power solely for peaceful purposes bear testimony to Bangladesh firm adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation agenda. Bangladesh has always maintained its firm commitment to universal and complete disarmament and supported the establishment of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones in different parts of the world.

Bangladesh considers disarmament as an instrument for enhancing international security. Since becoming a member of the UN, Bangladesh has always been playing an active role in UN's disarmament diplomacy. As a member of the UN Security Council for two terms during 1979-1980 and 2000-2001, Bangladesh was particularly active and visible in international disarmament efforts, reaffirming its strong commitment to the adherence of international disarmament norms, treaties and instruments. Bangladesh's deep commitment to disarmament - both nuclear and conventional - flows from her deep constitutional obligations to the goal of general and complete disarmament. In keeping with these principles, Bangladesh has taken a number of unique decisions which have reaffirmed the country's competence to take leadership in the South Asia region in the area of disarmament and earned it tremendous goodwill and acceptance in the international arena.

Bangladesh is a State Party to almost all the major disarmament treaties including NPT, CTBT, CWC, CCW, BTWC, APMBT, etc. Bangladesh, as the first South Asian country, signed and ratified the CTBT. The decision to ratify the CTBT received highest commendations of the international community. Inspired by the same commitment, Bangladesh also signed and ratified the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction" and the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction" as the first South Asian country.)

Bangladesh has also enacted a series of laws at the national level, which include:

A. Bangladesh's National Legislation

- Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Act-2012 (Act No. XIX of 2012) (19 June 2012).
- Nuclear Safety & Radiation Control Rules-1997 (SRO No. 205-Law/97), (Thursday, September 18, 1997).

B. IAEA Instruments /Agreements with IAEA

Bangladesh became member of the IAEA on 27 September 1972 and is a Party to the

- Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the IAEA for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (30 March 2001)
- Improved Procedures of Designation of Safeguards Inspectors (25 April 1995)
- Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) (24 August 1987)
- Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (11 June 1982)
- Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA (RSA) (31 December 1979)

C. Bilateral Agreements

- Between the Government of Belarus and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh an MoU on peaceful cooperation on nuclear energy (July 2013).
- Between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on granting state export credit to Bangladesh for financing preparatory construction activities for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project (15 January 2013).
- Between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the establishment of Nuclear Information Center at "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre", Dhaka. (June, 2012).
- Agreement between the Ministry of Science and Technology (The People's Republic of Bangladesh) and the Federal Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service (The Russian Federation) on cooperation in the field of Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulation in the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy (27 February 2012).
- The IGA between Bangladesh and Russian Federation on Cooperation concerning Construction of Rooppur NPP (2 November 2011).
- The Government of Bangladesh and the Government of the Russian Federation signed a Framework Agreement of Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy (21 May 2010).
- A MOU on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was signed by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and the State Atomic Energy Corporation ROSATOM (13 May 2009).
- Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on "Nuclear Co-operation" (7 April 2005).
- Between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of USA on "Scientific and Technological Co-operation" (01 March 2003).
- Between the Government of Italy and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on "Scientific and Technological Co-operation" (4 December 2000).
- Between the Government of USA and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on "Co-operation Concerning Peaceful uses of Atomic Energy" (17 September 1981).

D. Regional Agreements

- Regional Agreement with the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation Asia (FNCA) on 15 November 2006.
- Regional Agreements with the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN)

E. Other Relevant International Treaties/Convention

- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (July 2007).

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) (June 2005).
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) (8 March 2000).
- Convention on Nuclear Safety (NS) (24 October 1996).
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (ASSIST) (7 February 1988).
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (NOT) (7 February 1988).
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (31 August 1979).

This wide range of legislations, agreements and instruments reinforces Bangladesh's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

1.2 Bangladesh's Current Priorities in Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Agenda

Bangladesh is an active and contributing member of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and UN General Assembly First Committee dealing with disarmament issues.

✓ Bangladesh strongly aligns with the G-21 countries within the CD on the issue of **Negative Security Assurances (NSA)** for Non Nuclear states by Nuclear States. The G-21 reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The Group remains convinced that as long as nuclear weapons exist, so also will the risk of their proliferation and possible use remain with them, and hence the need for NSA so as to pre-empt the use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear state. ✓

Bangladesh has always been supportive of beginning negotiations of a non-discriminatory and internationally and effectively verifiable **Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT)** which will include existing stocks. This treaty aims at putting a ban on future production of fissile material and many states (mostly western states) consider this treaty to be the next logical step for a true disarmament and non-proliferation measure.

In 2013, Bangladesh also aligns with G-21 on emphasizing the importance and urgency of **Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer space (PAROS)**. In this regard, the G-21 is deeply concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic-missile defense systems and the pursuit of advanced military technologies capable of being deployed in outer space which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security.

1.3 Hon'ble Prime Minister at the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament at the 68th UNGA

At the statement in a high level meeting on Nuclear Disarmament at the 68th UNGA, the Hon'ble Prime Minister termed Nuclear Disarmament as a crucial issue for the survival of humanity and of the planet. Some key points of that statement are highlighted as follows:

- "The Conference on Disarmament deadlocked for decades could move forward easily to conclude a non-discriminatory, internationally and effectively verifiable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, as well as possession of the same. The Conference on Disarmament also would take another step to create a universal legal instrument to codify assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against

non-nuclear states. These steps could stop nuclear weapon proliferation and rid the risk of them falling in the hands of terrorists."

- The steps regarding "the establishment, as an interim measure, of nuclear weapon free zones in South Asia and in the Middle-East" could be considered at the earliest. "These are possible with the ratification by the nuclear weapons states of the related protocols to all treaties establishing such zones. These initial steps could be the beginning of diversion of colossal resources for nuclear weapons development and production to eradicating poverty and hunger and ensuring socio-economic development of mankind as a whole."
- "Bangladesh believes that nuclear weapons cannot guarantee ultimate security and peace. These can, on the other hand, be guaranteed by people enlightened through education, socio-economic progress, and preservation of democratic values, and realization of human faculties by peaceful means. There is no doubt that a price has to be paid for the promotion and the maintenance of peace. But, Bangladesh is convinced that it is much less than that of making nuclear weapons and fighting a war with these, and then going for peace."
- "To renounce nuclear weapons and to seek security and prosperity through empowerment of the people" can help make this planet a peaceful one.