

Opening Remarks

Prime Minister's intervention at the Dinner Session
on 12 April 2010

Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Good evening**

I thank you, President Obama, and the US Government for the warm hospitality and for inviting me to speak at this dinner session.

We thank you for demonstrating leadership in convening this Summit.

Last year in Prague, Mr. President, you made an inspiring call to reduce nuclear risks. We welcome the objectives on nuclear security set out by you.

We congratulate you and President Medvedev over the conclusion and signing of the historic New START.

Mr. President, in Prague, you said that terrorists must never acquire a nuclear weapon. We fully agree with you. All nations must be in a state of constant preparedness for effective and timely response to such a threat.

The democratic government in Pakistan is fully committed to ensuring nuclear security.

So far, reported incidents of illicit trafficking of direct use nuclear material have been low. But there is no room for complacency here. We need strong national actions and greater international coordination to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear materials.

The threat of terrorist acts involving "dirty bombs" is more real and it has global dimensions. We should take additional measures to combat this threat.

Mr. President,

In Pakistan, as a nuclear weapon state, we attach highest importance to the security of nuclear materials and facilities. For this purpose, we have put in place multi-layered mechanisms and processes. We have done so, first and foremost, in our own national interest and to protect our strategic assets.

Nuclear security within a state is a national responsibility. International cooperation is important to promote a responsive and resilient nuclear security culture. Success would ultimately depend on national actions.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has a robust nuclear security regime. There are four prongs of our strategy.

First, our nuclear security system is managed and supported by a three-tier command and control system, a regulatory regime covering nuclear security, and comprehensive export controls.

Our democratic government passed the National Command Authority Ordinance as an Act of Parliament. We have also constituted a Parliamentary Committee on National Security that closely watches policies and their implementation.

Our Nuclear Security Action Plan (NSAP) is being implemented in cooperation with the IAEA.

We are constantly refining and updating our systems.

Second, we are cooperating with the international legal regimes, arrangements, and initiatives. Pakistan has been reporting regularly to the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee. We are implementing provisions of the relevant Conventions and IAEA Code of Conduct.

We welcome this Summit's emphasis on assistance for capacity building and sharing of best practices, in nuclear security.

Third, we are working for regional stability in South Asia. Our objective is to enhance nuclear security, in its holistic sense, and reduce nuclear risks. We believe that Pakistan's proposals on a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in South Asia will go a long way in making our region secure and stable.

We have already worked with India on several nuclear confidence building measures. This effort must continue. More than ever before, our two nations need to hold a sustained dialogue to address all issues.

Fourth, for Pakistan, civil nuclear power generation is an essential part of the national energy security strategy, to help meet our energy needs for social and economic development.

We have more than 35 years experience of operating nuclear power plants. Pakistan has highly trained manpower and a well established safety and security culture.

Pakistan qualifies for participation in civil nuclear cooperation at the international level. We urge all relevant forums to give Pakistan access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses, in a non-discriminatory manner.

In the end, I wish success to you, Mr. President, and all leaders gathered here to promote the cause of nuclear security.
