

**Statement made by Turkish Delegation head  
Mr. Metin Kilci  
Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy**

**Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, (DİB-ESGY)**

Please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the IAEA for organizing this very important conference in a timely manner.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences to the Japanese people and the Japanese Government, for the tragic loss of human life which has resulted from the March 11 earthquake and the tsunami which followed in its aftermath.

Following the Chernobyl and the Three Mile Island accidents, the Fukushima incident has once more brought to the attention of the international community the importance of nuclear safety. The situation in Fukushima remains to be a major concern not only for Japan but also for other countries around the world.

The Fukushima incident has important implications for the future of nuclear power and it confronts us with major challenges. In order to prevent such an accident from reoccurring elsewhere in the world we must begin the process of reflection and evaluation of the situation and the mistakes that may have been made.

Turkey strongly supports the international community in its efforts to scrutinize the Fukushima accident and to bring new measures to enhance safety in nuclear facilities.

We hope that this Conference will create a good opportunity to strengthen nuclear safety and emergency preparedness and response as well as regaining public confidence in nuclear technology worldwide.

**Distinguished participants,**

The global demand for energy is rapidly increasing. There is growing uncertainty in regard to the supply and price of fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas. There are also heightened concerns about greenhouse gas emissions. It is generally accepted that it will not be possible to continue to use fossil fuels at the present rate, if we are to achieve progress in combating climate change.

Although certain progress has been achieved in renewable energy technology, it is at present not sufficient to meet rising global energy demand. Thus the challenge of meeting global energy demand without further increasing carbon emissions remains to be a critical challenge for us all.

This challenge is even greater for the developing countries where the overwhelming part of global growth in demand for electricity is likely to take place.

### **Distinguished Participants,**

The contribution of nuclear power to world electricity generation has been stable for the past decades for many countries. It has served as base-load production and as such has also supported the use of renewable energy resources in electricity production.

Actually these properties of nuclear energy had opened new prospects for a nuclear renaissance on a global scale before the Fukushima incident. However, the Fukushima accident has now triggered a new debate on the sustainability of nuclear power as a source of energy.

### **Distinguished participants,**

In the light of our present energy situation we believe that the role of nuclear energy continues to be very important in addressing the supply challenges that we confront. As unfortunate as the Fukushima accident is, we are not of the belief that it constitutes a justification for an anti-nuclear power stance.

It is clear that more needs to be done to strengthen the safety of nuclear power plants as well as to enhance a safety culture and effective international cooperation so as to significantly reduce the risk of future accidents. There is need for rigorous adherence by the international community to the most robust international safety standards and full transparency. Only by achieving these goals can we restore and maintain public confidence in nuclear energy.

We believe that our efforts should concentrate in this direction.

### **Mr. President,**

We are well aware that the challenge now faced by many States are really enormous for building and strengthening human and organizational capacity, and strong regulatory infrastructure for constructing and operating nuclear power plants. Safety expertise and strong safety culture is an essential precondition for nuclear technology.

Especially the safety in old nuclear power plants needs to be thoroughly evaluated. In this respect the very old Metzamor nuclear power plant which is located in an earthquake zone in Armenia and which lacks protective structures remains to be a concern for Turkey and the other neighbors of Armenia. We are of the opinion that all the necessary measures must be taken to eliminate the risks associated with this NPP.

### **Distinguished participants,**

The crisis in Japan has also pointed to the need for a new network or mechanism to enable international nuclear experts to get in touch with each other in the case of such an event. We are ready to discuss this issue with our partners and we remain committed to contributing to the improvement of international nuclear safety.

**Mr.President,**

Let me now take this opportunity to provide some highlights concerning nuclear energy programme in Turkey.

Our long term plans requires diversification of our energy sources, which at present is heavily dependant on imported fossil fuels, more than 50%. Projections estimate that Turkey will require an additional 100.000 MWe installed capacity by 2030. Consequently, nuclear power generation, in that respect, has become one of the most feasible options for Turkey. Our ultimate goal is to have at least 10.000 MWe installed nuclear capacity by early 2020s and to achieve %25 nuclear capacity in our electricity generation system by 2050. Thus Turkey is determined to continue its nuclear energy projects in order to enhance its energy security.

Let me once again reiterate that Turkey remains firmly committed to the goal of ensuring safe and secure utilization of nuclear energy. Therefore, we will continue our close cooperation with the IAEA for the realization of our nuclear projects in the most safe and secure manner.

**Mr.President,**

I am confident that under your leadership this conference will have a positive impact on the future of nuclear energy and particularly will enhance cooperation and dialogue among the member states of the IAEA in the area of nuclear safety.

Thank you for your attention.