

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
20-24 JUNE 2011

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HEAD OF CAMEROONIAN DELEGATION
TO THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

VIENNA, 21 JUNE 2011

Mr. President,

Mr. Director General of IAEA,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Cameroonian delegation would like to sincerely congratulate you, **Ambassador Antonio GUERREIRO** of Brazil, for your election as President of this very important IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. It is our strong conviction that given your rich diplomatic experience, deliberations at this conference under your able stewardship, would be carried out very smoothly and successfully. You can count on the full collaboration of my delegation.

May I express our appreciation to the Director General of IAEA, **Mr. YUKIYA AMANO** for taking the timely and commendable initiative of convening this special ministerial conference of the Agency on nuclear safety, to discuss an initial assessment of the Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, to consider the lessons that need to be learnt, to help launch a process to enhance nuclear safety throughout the world and to consider ways to further strengthen the response to nuclear accidents and emergencies.

Moreover, the early and significant number of activities undertaken by the Director General and the Agency's Secretariat, aimed at mitigating any consequences of the Fukushima nuclear accident, as expected and clearly spelt out in the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, further deserve the appreciation of my country.

We also wish to join many other delegations in expressing our deepest condolences and solidarity with the Government and people of Japan, whose north-east coast was recently hit by a high magnitude earthquake, that triggered a tsunami and nuclear accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi and Fukushima Dai-ni Nuclear Power Stations, all resulting in the great loss of human life and property as well as an extensive damage of the environment.

In this regard, we wish to laud the courage and determination of the people of Japan as they go through this devastating experience and remain optimistic they will overcome the resulting challenges.

We also welcome the elaborate report prepared and submitted to this conference by Japan on the Fukushima nuclear accident, particularly as it seeks to fully and accurately inform the international community on this accident and to share lessons learnt from it.

Mr. President,

Although Cameroon does not possess nor operate nuclear power programmes, it did not remain indifferent to the nuclear accident in Fukushima, considering that the spill over effects of such disasters at times go beyond the borders of the affected state.

Moreover, it is important to recall that in an effort to meet up with international requirements in the domain of nuclear safety, Cameroon is a party to a number of international legal instruments in this field, notably, the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention.

Cameroon has also sought to apply the highest standards of nuclear safety by establishing a National Radiation Protection Agency that serves as a national nuclear regulatory body.

Mr. President,

In the light of the Fukushima nuclear accident, and efforts made by my country to develop a strengthened and sustainable nuclear safety culture, the Cameroonian delegation concurs with the concrete proposals made by the Director General of the Agency at the beginning of this conference aimed at establishing a realistic and enhanced post-Fukushima nuclear safety framework.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, may I assure you that Cameroon looks forward to implementing the outcomes of this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, as it seeks to promote its cooperation with the IAEA and other multilateral and bilateral partners in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy for its socio-economic development.

My country also welcomes all other future initiatives aimed at improving the global nuclear safety framework, including Japan's intention to organize in cooperation with the IAEA, an international conference on

nuclear safety in the second half of 2012, where among others, the outcomes of this conference could be further discussed.

Thank you.