

**STATEMENT**  
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**HEAD OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION**  
**TO THE IAEA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON NUCLEAR SAFETY**  
**VIENNA, 20-24 JUNI 2011**

Mr. President,

I would like to express our appreciation to the Director General for initiating this Ministerial Meeting, which we have fully supported since the first time he announced it.

I would also like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for the resumption of this important and challenging task. While we rely on your strong leadership and diplomatic skill, I assure you of my delegation's support in guiding us toward fruitful and action-oriented outcome.

The people and the government of Indonesia express once again their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the people and government of Japan for the catastrophic losses they suffered from the unprecedented natural disasters in March 2011. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the disaster. We believe that the tremendous courage that has been shown by the Japanese emergency teams in getting the plant in Fukushima back under control also deserve our admiration and respect. We thank the Minister of Japan for his statement yesterday. It certainly gave us a clearer picture on what was going on. For the government and people of Indonesia, the tragedy was a moment of solidarity. A moment which would bind us even stronger in the future: a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Mr. President, as an expression of our solidarity with the government and the people of Japan, immediately after the disaster, Indonesia offered to dispatch its nuclear emergency response team to Fukushima if requested by the Japanese government. One of our experts on nuclear radiological protection and emergency response has had the honor to join the international fact finding mission to Fukushima from 24 of May to 2 of June 2011. In the same vein, the President of the Republic of Indonesia just visited Japan last week, where he had an opportunity to make a field visit to and meet survivors of the disaster in the devastated area in Miyagi Prefecture near Fukushima Prefecture. Our President has returned to Jakarta safely. The visit indicates that the situation is already under control and even the area near Fukushima is safe to visit.

Mr. President,

We are strongly of the view that many lessons in the area of nuclear safety as well as nuclear emergency preparedness and response can be drawn from the Fukushima accident. In light of this, we welcome the report that has been provided by the Government of Japan for this conference. We also welcome the mission report that has been provided by the International Fact Finding Mission and are looking forward to discussing the report in more detail during the working session. We strongly believe that these lessons learned will provide strong ground for us to project and develop strengthened standards and measures in the future, in the areas of nuclear safety as well as nuclear emergency preparedness and response.

Indonesia believes that strengthening nuclear safety cannot be a once-time effort; it should instead be a continuous effort, reinvigorated from time to time by incorporating new experiences, needs and innovations. Therefore, any initiative towards continuously strengthening nuclear safety worldwide is worthy of our support, including the initiative of the Government of Japan to convene an international conference, together with the IAEA, on this topic in 2012.

Mr. President,

It is Indonesia's long standing view that strengthening the nuclear safety framework worldwide is of great importance. However, enhancing universal adherence to the nuclear safety framework, especially to the IAEA nuclear safety standards, is certainly no less important. In this light, we are strongly of the view that this Ministerial Meeting should give a balanced emphasis to both aspects in its deliberation and action plan.

While we are of the view that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety is in the hands of each state, we believe that the IAEA's role in assuring the safety of all nuclear activities worldwide should be enhanced and strengthened to the extent mandated by its Statutes. We recommend that this important issue be given due consideration by the Conference.

Mr. President,

We have learned from the Fukushima accident that the lack of attention given to aspects of public communication in the event of a nuclear accident could result in public panic and information chaos. This is largely a result of conflicting, unreliable and scientifically baseless information provided by different sources in the early days of the accident and exaggeration in press coverage. Like it or not, we have to accept the fact that we are now living in the era of information, media and social media networks.

Hence, we cannot deal with nuclear accidents the same way we did during the Chernobyl accident 25 years ago. The public communication aspect becomes essential in such a situation nowadays. Our approach has to be adjusted, giving due consideration to the public communication aspect. Therefore, we are strongly of the view that strengthening our collective capacity in public communications in the event of nuclear accidents should be given serious consideration in any efforts toward strengthening nuclear emergency preparedness and response in the future, including by this conference.

We have also learned from the previous experience that despite its central role and technical competency in nuclear safety as well as nuclear emergency preparedness and response, the IAEA cannot perform the job alone in isolation. Therefore, we support the Agency in strengthening its synergy and cooperation with other relevant international and regional organizations in this area, including through setting a framework of cooperation which could serve as a standby arrangement with other international and regional organizations in the event of an accident in the future.

In conclusion, Indonesia always stands ready to work together with the international community toward developing strengthened nuclear safety worldwide. In this light, it is the view of my delegation that the 5 proposals made by the DG in his remarks yesterday worth serious consideration. It is our hope that this Conference could provide a strong foundation and an action-oriented plan of action towards that goal. We are looking forward to working together with other member states in coping with common problems and pursuing common interests **in the spirit of "being in the same boat"**.

I thank you Mr. President.