

Mr. President,

Israel deplores the fact that this conference aimed for advancing the safety of Nuclear Power Plants is used as a stage for advancing political goals.

Mr. President,

Israel rejects all allegations and baseless assertions concerning the safety of its research reactor at Nuclear Research Center Negev. These allegations are part of a political campaign aimed to single Israel out and divert attention from real and worrisome occurrences of safety failures in other nuclear installations in neighboring countries.

The Israel Research Reactor 2 (IRR2) at the Nuclear Research Center Negev is operated and maintained according to sound safety standards which are in line with recognized international norms and procedures. As a matter of facts, for many years now, Israel adopts the IAEA safety recommendations as obligatory requirements.

On the other hand, we hear time and again about safety failures and poor management of nuclear facilities in neighboring countries, some of them having environmental impact. Some

of these recent failures caught much public and media attention.

Since the distance between IRR2 and these facilities is the same in both directions, I put it to the good judgment of the delegates present here to reflect who should be worried of whose nuclear safety norms and practice.

Thank you Mr. President