

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) MINISTERIAL
CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

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STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

TO THE IAEA

- Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Guerreiro – President of the Conference
- Your Excellency Mr. Yukiya Amano – Director General of the IAEA
- Honourable Ministers
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President

On behalf of the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho, I have the honour to express our sincere condolences, sympathy and solidarity to the Government and the people of Japan, following the deadly and catastrophic accident of March 11, 2011 at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Stations.

The Kingdom of Lesotho fully supports the initiatives and actions taken by the Director General of the IAEA in convening this important conference and the active steps taken by the IAEA in providing an assessment of the impact and consequences following the Fukushima accident.

We welcome the report by Japan, on the occurrence, development and response, including lessons learned from the accident.

Mr. President,

The devastation caused by the nuclear disasters like Chernobyl and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Stations and their impacts are enormous. It is therefore pertinent at this particular point in time that we take stock of nuclear safety regime and standards so that they can be enhanced.

The IAEA should remain the Organization with the central role in guiding member states on nuclear safety.

The international response and cooperation in the light of disaster management is crucial as the impact of such nuclear disasters go beyond geographical borders.

Mr. President,

As we deliberate on enhancing the Nuclear Safety Standards, we should also look at the capacity and roles of the Nuclear Power Station's Operators in emergency preparedness, response measures and safety.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Lesotho looks forward to the recommendations and conclusions of this very important Ministerial Conference.

I thank you.