

*Time Limit: 7 Minutes*

**IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**  
**20-24 June 2011**

**Statement by the Head of Pakistan's Delegation**

Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you Mr. Antonio Guerreiro to be the President of this Conference. We highly appreciate your efforts for holding extensive consultations during the preparatory phase and we are confident of reaching a consensus outcome under your able leadership.

2. We hope that the timely initiative of the Director General, H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, to convene this Conference would provide high level political impetus and launch the process for making an initial assessment of the nuclear accident in Japan, and to discuss lessons that need to be learned for further strengthening of the nuclear safety framework world wide as well as emergency preparedness and response mechanism along with the role of IAEA.

Mr. President,

3. On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, I would like to reiterate our deepest sympathy and condolences to Japan on the human loss and material devastation caused by earthquake and tsunami of March 11. We were moved by the resilience and steadfastness displayed by the Japanese people in the wake of this natural catastrophe. Pakistan stands by Japan in this hour of trial.

4. We offered our modest assistance to the Government of Japan, through the IAEA's Response Assistance Network (RANET) in the areas of Radiation Monitoring; Radioactive Sources Search and Recovery; Assessment and Advice on Emergency Response; and Environmental Measurements. In this context, PNRA with the cooperation of IAEA convened an International Seminar on "Nuclear Safety and Security Challenges in the 21st Century" in April this year. This Seminar was a timely endeavor to review arrangements and procedures for each stage of nuclear power generation to prevent and mitigate recurrence of nuclear incidents. This reflect our commitment towards nuclear safety which we can share in the working sessions of this conference.

Mr. President,

5. We appreciate the report of the IAEA fact-finding mission which sheds light on the circumstances surrounding the accident. My delegation would study it closely, and participate actively in the working sessions of this Conference. This would allow us to gain maximum possible insight into the causes and progression of the accident in order to derive important lessons for national measures. In evolving a new and strengthened nuclear safety regime, the differentiated nature of countries' needs and circumstances should be taken into account.

6. As a country that operates nuclear power plants and has plans to enhance the share of nuclear power in the national energy mix, Pakistan has been following developments in Japan. Now that the situation is

stabilizing, there is a need to engage leading experts from around the world to study the accident, to examine and analyze it in all its scientific and technical details, and to formulate comprehensive findings to draw the right conclusions for safety improvements. The Agency must have the leading role in this regard while taking into account the views and inputs from member states.

Mr. President,

7. Socio-economic development of our people is the foremost priority of the government of Pakistan. Safe and sustainable nuclear energy is essential to advance our development agenda as also considered by many member states. My country attaches the highest priority to nuclear safety. We believe that it is imperative for the sustainability and expansion of nuclear power. There can be no compromise on this. There can be no room for complacency.

8. Pakistan has begun the process to revisit the safety aspects of its nuclear power plants at Karachi and Chashma with reference to site studies, safety systems, operators training, emergency power systems, on-site and off-site emergency preparedness plans, etc. As newer details emerge, we would take additional appropriate measures.

Mr. President

9. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the States, we also realize that nuclear accidents do not respect national boundaries. An accident may have regional and global

consequences. This calls for the need to have the highest level of international cooperation and assistance. This must include the free flow of safety related technological information and necessary equipment. We consider it important that IAEA should strengthen its safety standards program, review services and capacity building of member states.

10. We are committed to working with the international community in the quest for continuous improvement in nuclear safety worldwide.

I thank you, Mr. President.