

STATEMENT BY NIGERIA AT THE FUKUSHIMA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Delivered by

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to the International Organizations in Vienna.

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Co -Presidents, Distinguished Foreign Ministers of Japan and Malaysia, Distinguished Ministers, Director General Amano, Your Excellencies and Distinguished Experts and Participants,

I am privileged to be here today and to bring you greetings from the Government and People of Nigeria, on whose behalf I thank Japan for the invitation to the Fukushima Conference.

An accident anywhere is an accident everywhere, therefore Nigeria has come to the Fukushima Prefecture, Japan in order to demonstrate solidarity with the good people of this great country, to pay tribute to those whose lives were taken 21 months ago by the Great East Japan Earthquake, and to congratulate the Japanese people on their traditional resilience and ability to strongly bounce back from adversity.

Nigeria thanks Japan for its determination and its transparent actions aimed at passing on to the international nuclear community the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear disaster, thus making concrete contribution to nuclear safety. I also congratulate the Governor of the Fukushima Prefecture for the well coordinated and warm welcome, and for the briefing on the current state of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and activities to revitalize the area around the Nuclear Power Station.

Nigeria hereby commends the IAEA, under the leadership of Ambassador Yukiya Amano, not only for organizing the first ministerial conference in Vienna last year and for co-sponsoring this Ministerial Conference, but for the Agency's prompt actions in responding to the disaster and in effective and consistent promotion and coordination of international response and learning process, as follow up to the declaration of last year's conference and the Action Plan. I therefore thank DG Amano for his update on ongoing activities in Fukushima and at the level of the Agency.

As a country that is desirous of expanding its electricity mix with nuclear generated energy, Nigeria is party to all necessary international instruments on nuclear safety. Thus we take note with satisfaction the principal objective of this international ministerial conference to contribute to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide and providing yet another opportunity to share with the international community, at the ministerial and expert levels, further knowledge and lessons learned from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident. The result of this gathering will no doubt further enhance transparency and the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan, prominent among which is to put in place highest safety standards, measures to protect people and the environment from ionizing radiation, and R & D on handling emergencies caused by natural hazards.

Permit me to assure, at this juncture, that nuclear power will not face a draw back in Nigeria as the main factors driving our interest in this energy system are still the same. These include increases in national electricity demand, high and volatile fossil fuel prices, concerns about climate change and desires by the government to increase national levels of energy security for the pursuit of the prosperity and wellbeing of the people.

Co-Presidents,

Nigeria is satisfied to see the high level of international interest and cooperation on this important matter, demonstrated by the presence of high officials of Governments and Inter-governmental organizations, as well as experts from all parts of the globe. We look forward, therefore, to an outcome that will lead to greater commitment to nuclear safety on the part of all, in order to further to alleviate fears over safety and increase trust and confidence in the use of the atom for peace.

I thank you for your kind attention.