

Speech on the Occasion of
The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

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Mr.Poya Faryabi

Mr .Co -President

Excellences

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my sincere pleasure to join all of you here today for this most important and topical of conferences. I would like to express, on behalf of the Government and People of Afghanistan, deepest gratitude to the Government of the noble nation of Japan and to the IAEA for convening this Ministerial Conference for learning and Discussion.

I echo the comment of many of my esteemed colleagues here in stating the Fukushima is the most appropriate venue for this event.

Japan has bore the unfortunate distinction of being the only nation ever to have suffered from nuclear disaster. On March 11th of the last year, natural forces once again made Japan and through Japan the world, witness to the potential of nuclear affects. The suffering that has been endured bravely by these people has been a testament to the strength and resilience of the Japanese. I am encouraged as I see the rebuilding progressing in this area and the ability for people to begin their lives anew. But we wish a repeat of this difficulty on no one.

Distinguished Delegates,

We have all become acquainted with the difficulties that nuclear power has posed in a few terrible situations. Nonetheless, we are also aware of nuclear power's ability to provide a stable and much needed energy sources in many environments. As the global populations continues to grow and as more and more are able to embrace development, the procurement of energy to meet the growing needs of these people has become an important area of concern.

My nation has along legacy regarding the exploration of nuclear issues.

We were one of 23 nations with membership in the international Atomic Energy Agency at its 1957 establishment.

Our first related agency, the Afghanistan Atomic Energy Agency, was established in year 1960th, during the reign of his Majesty the late king Mohammad Zahir. During this time our government explored nuclear based application for cancer treatment. In the recent history, our government has established within the aims of the Afghan National Development Strategy the Afghan Atomic Energy High Commission. Through this commission; we seek again to explore the issues of peaceful use of nuclear application to gain benefits within such sectors as health care, agriculture, energy and water management. Let me again emphasize that we are dedicated to peaceful use exclusively, domestically and regionally, only seeking the betterment of lives.

We believe that there are many lessons to be learned from Fukushima and the other sad incidences that have likewise happened in various parts of the world. As such, it is imperative to call for responsible nuclear development based on international norms with a strong

dedication to ensuring safety and security. With these areas, it is certain that Japan can play an excellent leadership role, using its expertise and experiences to ensure that others do not endure what has been endured here.

Mr. Co-President

It is appropriate to note as well that as the world continues to diversify its source of energy; our nation sits on some of the huge amounts reserves of energy and rare earth minerals. We invite responsible exploitation of these from international capable firms.

Inclosing, please allow me once more to state we should never forget

The lessons learned in Fukushima. These lessons must be applied when considering how to move forward with peaceful, responsible, and safe applications of nuclear techniques.

Thank you once again to the noble Japanese Government and People and to those who organized this very appropriate conference.