

Statement of Mr. YAO Bin, the Head of the Chinese Delegation
at the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

15 December 2012

Distinguished Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to lead the Chinese delegation to attend the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to express our sincere appreciation to the host country and the IAEA for the meticulous organization and thorough arrangement, and to greet all delegations attending this conference. I would also like to avail myself of the opportunity to convey best regards to the Japanese government organizations and the industry for their continued efforts to properly deal with the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Accident.

Mr. Chairman,

This Conference will provide opportunity for all countries to summarize thoroughly the experiences related to nuclear safety and nuclear emergency, and to promote firmly the sustainable development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Now, I would like to introduce about the measures adopted by China in strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear emergency.

First, Paying High Attention to Nuclear Safety to Ensure Sound and Harmonious Development of Nuclear Energy. The principle of “safety first” has been adhered to by the Chinese government in the whole nuclear industry from nuclear power planning, construction, operation to decommissioning, and in all related industries. Nuclear power operation in China has maintained a safety record of 21 years. After the Fukushima nuclear accident, the Chinese government immediately triggered off the national nuclear emergency coordination mechanism, and organized a comprehensive inspection on all nuclear facilities. Safety regulation has been strengthened for nuclear facilities

and safety review and assessment has been conducted on all nuclear power plants under construction against the most advanced standards. In June, the comprehensive safety inspection report issued in June, 2012 showed that all nuclear facilities in China are safe.

Second, Analysing Situation on Scientific Basis, to Advance Nuclear Power Construction Steadily and Orderly. The Chinese government adhered to the policy of developing nuclear energy safely with high efficiency. Currently, there is 15 nuclear power units in operation in mainland China, with installed capacity of 12.53 Gwe; 26 units are under construction, with installed capacity of 29.24 Gwe, accounting for 40% of the world total. *The Nuclear Safety Plan* and the *Medium- and Long-term Nuclear Power Development Program*, which was passed on October 24, 2012, further makes clear the objectives and tasks for the next stage of nuclear power development in China. China will maintain the development pace rationally, raise the access threshold for new builds, and adopt the most advanced proven technologies to advance nuclear power construction steadily and orderly.

Third, Enhancing Safety Standard and Strengthen Capabilities to Fend Off Severe Disaster. Based on the lessons drawn from the severe nuclear accidents occurred in the history of nuclear power development, nuclear power industry in China has been making efforts to enhance its capability to protect against severe and extreme natural disasters, to prevent and mitigate radioactive releases and to carry out disaster relief operations for nuclear facilities, as well as to develop new and safe nuclear reactor, and remarkable achievements have been made. On October 16, 2012, the Chinese Government issued the *12th Five-Year Plan on Nuclear Safety and Radioactive Pollution Prevention*, which laid down coordinated plans about 9 key tasks including strengthened defense in-depth, and 5 key projects such as nuclear safety enhancements, radioactive pollution treatment and management, scientific and technical innovation, emergency response assurance, regulatory capacity building and other related supporting measures.

Fourth, Focusing on Capacity Building to Build Up Nuclear Emergency Preparedness. The Chinese Government has always placed emphasis on nuclear safety and nuclear emergency response capacity building. 1. The regulatory organizations have been beefed up. A new Department of Nuclear

Emergency and Safety Regulation was established within CAEA. Management and Regulatory teams were expanded in NEA and NNSA. The member units of the National Nuclear Emergency Coordinating Committee were increased from 18 to 24. 2. Two Plans were issued. *The 12th Five Year Plan on National Nuclear Emergency Work* issued in June, 2012, together with *the 12th Five-Year Plan on Nuclear Safety and Radioactive Pollution Prevention* have made arrangement for the nuclear safety and nuclear emergency work in the future. 3. Revisions had been made on the current National Nuclear Emergency Plan. 4. Technical teams have been strengthened. A national nuclear emergency rescue team composed by 300 people will be formed to undertake domestic emergency response and disaster relief operations in case of major and severe nuclear accidents and to participate international nuclear emergency rescue efforts.

Fifth, Deepening International Cooperation to Share Fruits of Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. China has always insisted on the principle of “mutual benefits and win-win cooperation” to continuously broaden and deepen the bilateral and multilateral nuclear cooperation. In February 2011, China established International Training Center on Nuclear Power Construction, which cooperates with IAEA to share experiences with other countries. In August 2012, the Chinese Government approved the construction proposal of the Center of Excellence on Nuclear Security jointly initiated by the Chinese and US leaders, with a view to make active contributions to upgrading the nuclear security level in this region.

Mr. Chairman,

It is an important and urgent task facing all of us to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear safety and join hands to advance safe development of nuclear energy. The Chinese delegation would like to present the following four proposals:

One, Sum Up Lessons Learnt From the Nuclear Accident, and Implement the Nuclear Safety Action Plan. As a Chinese saying goes: “When we look into the future, we can learn from the past.” China calls on all countries to have closer coordination with the IAEA and share experience feedback related to the

Fukushima accident, further improve nuclear safety standards, and enhance capability of defending against multiple natural disasters. Continuous efforts should be made to implement the Action Plan, so as to jointly enhance nuclear safety capability.

Two, Increase Information Exchange on Nuclear Safety, and Promote the Safety Concept of Putting People First. The Fukushima nuclear accident makes people deeply feel the severity of nuclear safety. The safety concept of putting people first has been promoted, injecting new vitality for the nuclear safety and nuclear emergency related work. The public long for harmony and peace, and they give more attention than ever before to nuclear accidents, nuclear safety and nuclear emergency. Providing accident-related information to the international community, affected or potentially affected countries in a timely and comprehensive manner is very important for mitigating trans-boundary radiation consequence and easing public worries. We call for more sharing and exchanging of nuclear safety information and revision of the *Convention on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents* as appropriate.

Three, Strengthen Technical Cooperation on Nuclear Emergency and Enhance Global Nuclear Safety Level. Nuclear infrastructure development is essential for emerging nuclear power countries. We call for the IAEA to assist relevant countries to formulate nuclear energy policies, establish nuclear safety legislation and regulation system, nurture nuclear safety culture, and cultivate high-quality human resources, to ensure safe development of nuclear energy. Continuous support should be provided to the developing countries for the nuclear energy development through the technical cooperation (TC) platform. China is now considering to join the Nuclear Emergency Response and Assistance Network(RANET), so as to support the IAEA to contribute to safe development of nuclear energy.

Four, Enhance Global Nuclear Security Capability and Prevent Against Nuclear Terrorist Incidents. Nuclear Safety entails great responsibility, while nuclear security can not be overlooked. The Chinese government actively support the leading role of the IAEA in the nuclear security field, and would like to join hands with all countries to facilitate the universalization of *the Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*, enhance the effectiveness of the International Physical Protection Advisory

Service of the Agency, increase the synergy between nuclear security and nuclear safety, with a view to jointly upgrade the nuclear safety and nuclear security level around the globe.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In retrospect, with mutual trust and assistance, we actively carried out exchanges and cooperation centering around the demands of member states, and made great contributions to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and socio-economic development of the world. Looking into the future, though the task is heavy, we have the full confidence that nuclear energy development will have more vitality and prospect. China is willing to share its achievements and experiences with regard to nuclear energy development, nuclear safety and nuclear emergency with other member states, and carry out pragmatic cooperation, making joint efforts to contribute to the well-beings of the world people.

Thank you for the attention.