

**Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

**Fukushima Prefecture, Japan**

**15-17 December, 2012**

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

Mr. President,

1. Let me begin by expressing my appreciation for the Japanese people who stabilized the Fukushima Daiichi accident with great courage and technical skill, and shared valuable lessons with the world to enhance nuclear safety worldwide. Since that event, a series of steps have been taken around the world to further enhance nuclear safety. The IAEA has played an important role in fostering international exchanges on these issues. The first Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety held under its aegis in June 2011, and adoption of the Nuclear Safety Action Plan in September 2011, were major landmarks in this process.

2. This conference provides another opportunity to share lessons learnt from the nuclear accident and to discuss progress of national and international efforts in strengthening nuclear safety. On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Japanese Government and people for their very gracious hospitality and superb arrangements for this conference. The resolve displayed in hosting it even in the midst of vital national events is an indicator of the importance accorded to nuclear safety by Japan. The IAEA is also to be commended for its co-sponsorship of this conference.

Mr. President,

3. In Pakistan we have always accorded the highest priority to assurance of safety throughout our nuclear power program. Pakistan is party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety as well as the two international Conventions on Early Notification and Assistance. We have an independent regulatory body and our nuclear safety regulations are mainly based on IAEA safety standards. We, in Pakistan, are keenly following the outcome of studies and analyses of the Fukushima Daiichi accident being made worldwide. We have comprehensively reviewed our own safety infrastructure in all areas identified by the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan. Regulations for site evaluation, design, operation, emergency planning and preparedness have been assessed on the basis of experience feedback available so

far. After thorough reassessment, necessary modifications have been initiated in these regulations which have been shared with the international community in various forums.

4. Reassessment of safety of all nuclear power plants in Pakistan was also initiated very promptly in parallel by the operating organization, while directions from the regulatory body were also communicated to them for this re-evaluation. A comprehensive framework for this reassessment and consequent actions, called the Fukushima Response Action Plan (FRAP), had been formulated by May 2011. Major areas for reassessment included natural hazards, availability of off-site and on-site power, emergency core cooling, spent fuel cooling, hydrogen control, containment integrity, emergency operating procedures, severe accident management guidelines, off-site emergency preparedness and training program of operators. Safety enhancements under this Plan are now in various stages of implementation under thorough regulatory oversight. In addition, evaluation and improvement of country level infrastructure for management of radiological emergency has also been initiated under the Nuclear Emergency Management System (NEMS). A national project to ensure the long term safety of our nuclear power plants is successfully underway with the support of the IAEA Technical Cooperation department.

Mr. President,

5. The IAEA initiative to conduct the second Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) in August 2012 with a focus on the Fukushima accident was highly commendable. That meeting provided a platform to the contracting parties to share lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident and the consequent actions taken to further enhance nuclear safety. We prepared a special national report for the meeting covering all the areas identified in the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan. Pakistan fully supports the outcome of this meeting and is committed to further strengthen national nuclear safety infrastructure and standards.

6. Enhancing transparency has been one of the important thrusts of the extraordinary CNS meeting. In this regard, Pakistan has hosted international review missions from WANO and IAEA for independent assessment of its nuclear power

plant operators and nuclear regulatory authority in the past. We shall welcome these missions in the future as well. We also call upon the international community to abide by the spirit of openness mandated by this meeting and eliminate the impediments to an open exchange of safety related information, software tools, and equipment.

Mr. President,

7. In order to alleviate the grave energy shortage in the country, Pakistan is looking for increased contribution of nuclear energy in the national energy mix. Nuclear energy offers a clean and viable source of energy which is vital for Pakistan to meet its growing energy demand for socio-economic development. We are pursuing a target of generating 8800 MWe from nuclear power by 2030. We realize that the expansion of nuclear power calls for a higher level of responsibility and enhancement in transparency. We remain fully committed to ensuring the highest levels of safety throughout our nuclear power program in all phases of development.

8. At the same time, we call upon the international community to remove the barriers to trade in peaceful nuclear technologies. Pakistan's four decade long experience of safe and secure operation of nuclear power plants under IAEA safeguards, coupled with our robust export control regime that is compatible with the best international standards, fully qualifies us for non-discriminatory access to peaceful nuclear technologies.

Mr. President,

9. At the end, I would like to appreciate the efforts of the IAEA and the Government of Japan to provide opportunities for sharing and learning from experiences and practices of each other to further strengthen nuclear safety. On our part, we are registered with IAEA Response Assistance Network (RANET) since February 2008 and we also offered our services through IAEA for providing support during the Fukushima accident. We are also glad to share our well-established nuclear training facilities with other countries in order to enhance safety of nuclear installations.

10. In this conference, my delegation will actively participate in the working sessions to gain maximum possible insight into the causes and progression of the Fukushima Daiichi accident in order to derive important lessons for national

measures. The accident reminded us of the importance of increased international collaboration, cooperation, sharing and equitable access to safety related technology. We remain committed to working with the international community in the quest for continuous improvement in nuclear safety worldwide.

I thank you Mr. President.