

Statement  
Head of Delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Fukushima Ministerial Conference  
On Nuclear Safety

HE Dr. Hashim Abdullah Yamani  
President of King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable  
Energy

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In the name of God the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful

Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to thank the government of Japan for the invitation to hold this high-level conference in order to draw lessons from the assessment of the Fukushima accident and determine the impact and consequences to be taken into account in the future, especially with regard to design and construction, operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants.

My thanks are also extended to the government of Malaysia and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who are co-sponsoring this conference.

I extend my regards to the co-presidents of the conference HE Mr. Koichiro GEMBA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and HE Dr. Maximus J. Ongkili, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia.

And I thank all those involved in the conference for the wonderful effort and excellent organization.

Mr. President

This Conference is convened more than a year and a half since the accident at Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. The reports prepared by the Japanese government, the reports from the IAEA and the visits organized to the Fukushima prefecture, the Daiichi power station and the decontamination center, all of which have helped us better comprehend the magnitude of this disaster and the efforts made and will continue to be made to control the situation and Rehabilitate the area

Although we all know that nuclear energy provides an important solution to the ever increasing demand on energy. However, the Fukushima accident left feelings of fear and anxiety towards nuclear power all over the world, and led all countries to review the safety of their nuclear power stations.

Questions raised since the accident include: Is nuclear power still a safe option? Can we, at present or in the future, be able to assure with confidence, our communities that the Fukushima scenario will not be repeated?

Studies have shown that nuclear energy programs provide not only technical solutions to development problems, competitive cost of energy production and meet the environmental challenges that accompany the increasing in demand for energy,

but it also provides appropriate returns on investments required. Therefore, it is a good choice to support the development imperatives and the welfare of the citizens and the sustainability of environmental safety. In addition, the development of passive safety systems, addressing multiple severe hazards and multiple units-sites in the design and safety evaluations, and the establishment of strong, qualified and independent regulatory bodies will reassure communities that such scenarios will not occur in the future.

The steps that have been taken so far at all international, regional and national levels, call for optimism that the following objectives can be achieved:

**First:** Utilize the lessons learned to improve and strengthen safety at nuclear power plants and facilities, and prevent similar accidents in the future.

**Second:** promotion of nuclear safety culture worldwide; and expand commitment to relevant safety standards and guidelines, which should be continuously reviewed, strengthened and implemented as broadly and effectively as possible, especially those related to emergency preparedness and response and potential of sever accidents in the states with nuclear programs and industries.

**Third:** Utilize IAEA expertise to establish/strengthen national infrastructures related to nuclear safety, establish effective regulatory bodies, and human resources development, in countries with operating nuclear power plants and countries embarking on a nuclear power program.

**Fourth:** To establish and strengthen the exchange of best practices and technical information relating to nuclear safety between countries, and urge States to develop innovative technologies to improve the safety of nuclear installations.

**Fifth and last:** global adherence to the implementation of the legal instruments related to nuclear safety, notification and assistance in case of a radiological emergency or nuclear accidents, and to bear responsibility of civil liabilities of the relevant consequences.

Mr. President

We are confident that the States will take into account, when promoting its programs, all important considerations for the implementation of safety standards and guidelines, and will take into account the outcomes of recent international forums on nuclear safety. We urge countries that have nuclear programs and have not acceded to the Convention on Nuclear Safety to do so as soon as possible.

Finally I would like to emphasize the determination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to continue its ambitious nuclear energy program, and to support all international efforts to strengthen the pillars of nuclear safety, in order to achieve the objectives that we have mentioned previously and, with the general believe, that nuclear energy is one of the best technical solutions to meet the requirements of sustainable development safely, economically and environmentally friendly.

Thank you, Mr. President.