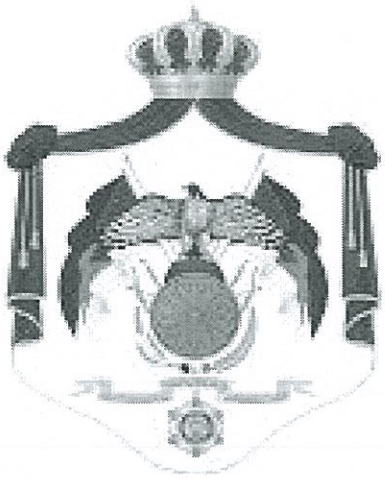

Speech by

H.E. Dr. Khaled Toukan,

Chairman

Jordan Atomic Energy Commission

June27-29 , 2013

Saint Petersburg-Russia

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies ,

Honored and Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely pleased to be with you today in this important event addressing such a distinguished gathering of ministers and key officials in nuclear energy. We meet here to address the sustainable role of nuclear energy in meeting the growing global energy requirements. I would like to seize this opportunity, to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency and OECD for organizing this important Conference and the Government of The Russian Federation for hosting it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know, the energy challenge has intensified over the last decade in most countries of the world especially in the developing countries. In Jordan approximately (96%) of the consumed energy is imported representing a heavy burden on the national economy. This challenge has been exacerbated by an acute shortage of water resources.

To overcome these challenges, the Government of Jordan took several steps towards achieving the security of energy and water supplies through the development of a national strategy for energy in 2007. The use of nuclear energy is one of the key alternatives to transition from dependence on fossil fuels to low carbon energy sources in line with modern developments in the energy industry.

Jordan realizes the importance of nuclear energy and its applications in achieving economic and social development while preserving the environment. Significant work has progressed on the use of nuclear energy in the areas of health and agriculture as well as seeking to make nuclear energy a strategic alternative to overcome the lack of natural resources needed to produce sustainable energy and desalinated water.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan took several important steps along a transparent roadmap that seeks to implement the national strategy with strict adherence to nuclear safety and selecting advanced and safe nuclear reactors. The Jordan Atomic Energy Commission has completed the evaluation of EPC bids submitted for the construction of Jordan's nuclear power plant and the preparation of economic feasibility studies; one for the AtomstroyExport bid (VVER1000, AES-92) and another for the Areva-MHI (ATMEA1). Two potential sites have been identified and a bid for conducting the site characterization will be issued soon.

Jordan has good resources of uranium deemed of strategic importance for the country contributing to security of fuel supply. Exploration works are underway to determine the feasibility of these resources and assess their strategic value for the country.

The Commission has successfully sought the localization of scientific and technological knowledge in the fields of nuclear energy and related disciplines. With the support of the Commission, a bachelor's degree program in nuclear engineering

and a master's degree program in nuclear physics and medical physics were established in Jordanian universities. In addition, support grants and scholarships for postgraduate studies in the field of nuclear energy were made available to provide opportunities for specialized training under the framework of nuclear cooperation agreements with governments of France, China, Russia, Korea, and Japan.

In November 2010, work on Jordan Research & Training Reactor (JRTR) commenced at the campus of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). JRTR is a (5) megawatt nuclear research reactor currently being built by the Korean KAERI / Daewoo consortium. The JRTR will play a key role in qualifying and training new generations of researchers, scientists and nuclear engineers. In addition, JRTR will be used for the production of radioactive isotopes to meet the needs of different medical, agricultural and industrial sectors and will be operational in 2015.

Also, the Jordan Subcritical Assembly (JSA) -designed, installed and commissioned by the China Institute for Atomic Energy- has now been commissioned at the Nuclear Engineering Department of JUST to be used as an advanced laboratory that provides practical training for nuclear engineering students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan's nuclear power programme continues with adherence to transparency, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with special emphasis on IAEA support and review.

The government has been paying great attention to the need to ensure nuclear safety and security at the national level by subjecting the uses of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation to quality control based on international standards and guidelines. It has also been keen on ensuring the development of the rules, governing principles and requirements for safety and security of nuclear materials and facilities and management of radioactive waste. Such standards are consistent with the principles and recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency. These efforts were materialized by the establishment of the Jordan Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2008 with the objective of strengthening this regulatory authority to enable it to exercise its role effectively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My country regards nuclear energy deployment as a globally shared enterprise in order to meet the twin goals of meeting energy demand and combating global warming. The safety of nuclear facilities should be a global concern. Jordan is requiring technology bid providers to implement measures and necessary plant modifications based on major lessons emerging from the ongoing assessment of the Fukushima accident

Although nuclear safety is a national responsibility, it has trans-boundary implications and hence international cooperation is crucial. Jordan is a signatory and strongly supports the international legal instruments, developed under the auspices of the IAEA in the field of nuclear safety and has ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety in June 2009.

Quoting Article II of IAEA statutes " *The Agency shall seek to accelerate the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health*

and prosperity throughout the world", the Agency is requested to reconsider the allocation of resources devoted to the development of Nuclear Energy and Technical Cooperation.

With your active participation, I wish this Ministerial Conference, all the success in arriving at implementable measures to revive the nuclear option after the Fukushima accident in a safe, economical and sustainable manner.

Thank you