

**Mr. President, His Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies
and Gentlemen,**

First of all I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Russian Federation and the IAEA for the organization of this Conference and I hope this Conference will be a fruitful one.

Today of the World's six and a half billion people, two billion have no access to electricity. In the next 20-30 years, the world's population is expected to increase by two billion. We must take into account that these four billion people, who today consume very little energy, will exert enormous pressure for higher standards of living and increased global energy consumption.

There is no doubt that the importance and role of energy sector to create an accelerated sustainable economic and social development which in turn enhances the welfare of people is becoming more evident today. Energy issues are directly related to the countries' level of development and their living standards. We are all aware of the fact that sustainable economic development through reliable energy supply is the main goal to enhance the welfare of our nations.

Energy supply security is an essential element of any energy policy. Given the growing demand, limited nature of primary energy resources, geographical differences, technological trends and economic impacts, energy security has been an important strategic aspect of a secure, sustainable and competitive energy policy.

Dear participants,

Safe, secure, economic and uninterrupted supply of energy is a basic priority for societies. Therefore energy policies are subject to intensive public attention. They also have global characteristics and long term impacts. Societies require reliable and environmentally sustainable energy forms for

increasing demand. So the energy is the issue which takes the central position while decision makers develop their strategies.

Despite the negative impact of Fukushima Daiichi Accident, a number of countries still are looking seriously at introducing or expanding the use of nuclear power as part of their energy mix. This is primarily because of the huge need for additional energy as the world's reserves of fossil fuels are inexorably depleted and concerns about global warming mount.

On the other hand, unless major additional investments in new nuclear construction are made in the relatively near future, the supply of nuclear electricity will begin to decline as existing reactors are retired.

For the next few decades, there are only a few realistic options for sustainable, reliable and economic energy supply and environmentally friendly energy production. One of them is obviously to increase the utilization of nuclear power.

Even if developing countries embrace conservation and clean-energy technologies, their increasing energy demand due to increasing population and industrialization process, will soon result in greenhouse gases emissions more than the existing industrialized world. In order to compensate these increased emissions, to reduce global total, the world urgently needs a massive introduction of low-emission energy technologies.

I believe that other sources of energy such as renewables also have an important contribution to make. But they are not in a position to provide the amounts of reliable base-load electricity which a modern economy needs on base load along a year. Nuclear power can do that.

Dear participants,

Now I would like to provide some information about the recent developments concerning nuclear energy in my country. Due to the rapid

annual increase of its national electricity demand and inadequacy of its indigenous energy resources, Turkey is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels. In other words, Turkey imports around 75% of its energy needs from abroad. Therefore, in order to strengthen its energy security, among other things, Turkey has also decided to embark upon nuclear energy.

In Turkey, annual increase rate of electricity demand has been 7-8 % on average. The demand of total primary energy supplies of Turkey will increase to 450 000 GWh by 2020 according to the demand forecasting by the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. Projections estimate that Turkey will require 100.000-120.000 MW installed capacity by 2020. The reason why Turkey gives to the nuclear energy development is because of the need of diversifying its energy supply and covering the rapid increase of electricity demand.

In connection with the projection of Turkey's electrical power supply and demand, the share of nuclear energy in electricity generation is planned to reach minimum 10% by 2023 and a further increase in this share is planned in long term.

After cancellation of four tenders to build NPP during the last half century, Turkey has chosen a way having a nuclear energy plant by signing an intergovernmental agreement instead of tendering process. All of the parameters evaluated in the tendering process are also taken into account in the intergovernmental negotiations.

In this context, Turkey concluded an agreement with the Russian Federation paving the way for the construction of a VVER1200 type nuclear power plant with 4.800 MWe total capacity at the Akkuyu nuclear site by 2020. The project company for the implementation of this project has already been established and started activities on the site.

Additionally, Turkey is also planning the construction of the second nuclear power plant with 5.000 MWe total capacity at the Sinop site.

Therefore, Turkey is expected to have at least 10.000 MWe installed nuclear capacity in the next 10-15 years. You would recall that two important cooperation Agreements have recently been signed for Sinop NPP Project between Turkish and Japanese Governments to develop NPPs and nuclear industry in Turkey and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We look forward further cooperation with Japanese Government to sign another Agreement to construct multiple units of NPP at Sinop site.

Along with its plans to construct nuclear power plants, Turkey is also in the process of enhancing its human resources and nuclear knowledge capacity and updating its existing nuclear legislation by taking into consideration the latest safety standards issued by the IAEA.

We remain resolutely committed to the goal of ensuring safe, secure and peaceful utilization of nuclear energy. Therefore, we will continue our close cooperation with the IAEA for the realization of our nuclear projects in a safe, secure and peaceful manner.

I would like to conclude our statement with emphasis on two points today:

- First, Turkey strongly believes that nuclear energy will be a key component of the future energy mix and committed to continue its nuclear power programme;

- Second, Fukushima is a strong reminder of nuclear safety and security and this will be the number one priority for our sustainable nuclear energy policy. We will continue to support international cooperation on nuclear safety and security.

I wish all participants a very successful Conference.

Thank you.