

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Statement

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Before

The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

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Fukushima-Japan

In the Name of God
The Most Companionate, the Most Merciful

Distinguished Ministers and Representatives,

At the outset, I may congratulate the Government of Japan for hosting such an important conference as well as the IAEA for its invaluable support for its organization. I may be confident, that with the chance of wise co-chairmanship of Japan and Malaysia, this Conference shall render illuminating rewards, as to the progression and concrete effectuation of nuclear safety, for the human society.

I would also like to recall my sympathy with the Japanese people and government, on the poignant and devastating tsunami of March 11, 2011.

For sure, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to fully engage in the work of this Conference as well as the follow up process of its outcome.

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues

Population growth and the ever culminating demand for health and nutrition, and the right of human beings to live with dignity, have triggered the ongoing move toward more appropriation of nuclear energy, and safer use of radioactive resources for peaceful purposes. The operation of more than 440 nuclear power plants in about thirty countries, to provide a noticeable portion of the electrical energy used within the last fifty years, is an undeniable fact. Henceforth, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the decision of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis), is mandated to produce 20,000 Megawatts of nuclear electricity.

Although the only three accidents of Three-Mile Island in the United States of America, Chernobyl in the ex-Soviet Union, and Fukushima Daiichi in Japan, during the operation of nuclear power plants in the last half a century, are not considered many in comparison with the numerous natural disasters, imposed military conflicts and other incidents, yet, this may not

release the Agency and the Member States from their obligation to seriously perform all their harmonized efforts for meeting the necessity of continuing to promote a high level of nuclear safety worldwide to prevent or mitigate accidents with radiological consequences as such, since a nuclear accident does not recognize any borders and a nuclear accident anywhere is an accident everywhere.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a responsible party to the NPT with exclusively peaceful nuclear activities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously invested a huge amount of resources in the field of nuclear safety and is committed to continue to work genuinely toward achieving an effective and fully reliable level of safety for its nuclear activities and facilities.

Considering the impacts of the Fukushima incident, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the necessity and demands for cooperation between the Agency and the Member States with ongoing nuclear power plant programs, to enhance and upgrade the level of up-to-date and appropriate education, training and retraining of the operators and regulators, especially those of the developing countries with no limitation or discrimination of any kind.

A short visit to the region and briefing is sufficient to notice the tremendous consequences of a nuclear accident. Despite the great efforts made so far, much more is required. Making attempts to promote the residents' social awareness on radiation effects and achieving thorough preparedness to return people to the residence is essential. Environmental impacts are fore coming. A tangible waste management policy and strategy is required for the debris and radioactive substances collected in temporary areas. Bearing in mind that Japan is considered a well-developed country and was supported immediately after the accident, quite few issues are remained unclear. This accident could be considered in anywhere else with different conditions. Then, the world would be faced with a much more sophisticated situation. A global attempt with no political interest or discrimination is required in this context.

Clearly, as stipulated in article III of the Statute, the International Atomic Energy Agency has major role in such an important issue by the development of safety standards and technical cooperation and assistance. This technical cooperation and assistance should not be subjected to any political motivations as stipulated in the statute; yet, unfortunately, it has recently been observed that due to pressure exerted, certain unjustifiable constraints have been imposed by the Secretariat on the participation of Iranian experts in the Agency's programs in the safety domain of peaceful nuclear activities. We are all aware that nuclear safety is of global importance; any negligence in rendering services in this field may lead to hazardous nuclear events of international dimension. Recent inexcusable restrictions imposed by the Agency on my country will be certainly counterproductive to the Agency's claim to enforce global nuclear safety standards. How could we further enhance our nuclear safety standards in my country's nuclear

installations while we are witnessing the hampering of the active participation of our experts in relevant international conferences, workshops and meetings organized by the Agency? Undoubtedly, such unjustified and unreasonable attitude and conduct shall lead to undesired consequences regarding the establishment of mutual confidence among Member States.

In accordance with undisputable rules of international law such as the Statute of the IAEA and the Safeguard Agreement any recourse to the resolutions of the Security Council to avert from the established principle of inclusiveness of the meetings is rendered illegal and unjust. Hence, any reference to such resolutions by the Agency as well as the co-sponsors of the IAEA events is against the law and unacceptable. Ironically, it is to be mentioned that, even in these unlawful resolutions, such as the explicit phraseology of paragraph 16 of resolution 1737, the case of nuclear safety, for its very specific nature, is as a principle excluded from the imposed so-called restrictions of the Security Council against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As a very crucial challenge, achieving and maintaining a high level of nuclear safety in global scale is a matter to be considered as a major priority by both the States embarking nuclear power programs as well as States expanding their existing programs. In the present conference, the time is very opportune to support the efforts of the international community to assist the Agency to abide by one of its most significant statutory obligations in establishing a work plan, in accordance with scientific and technical basis and the lessons learned and outcome of the in-depth analysis of the recent accidents of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plants.

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Islamic Republic Iran is aware that any nuclear incident or accident, intentional or unintentional, may have regional and global consequences. In this regard protection of nuclear installations from armed attacks is another essential subject for the safe promotion of nuclear energy in the world. The IAEA General Conference resolution 533 unanimously prohibited any attack or threat of attack against nuclear installations under construction or operation. I recall that the 2010 NPT Review Conference called upon all State Parties to abide by the abovementioned commitment. This important issue was recalled in 56th General conference as well.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to realize its national interests, the Islamic Republic of Iran has incorporated the use of peaceful nuclear technology in its development plans; and by deploying the state of art engineering techniques and standards has enhanced its domestic capability in this respect.

Proudly and with my entire honor, I declare that despite all the illegal sanctions and hostile impediments imposed during the last three decades, with the exemplary persistence and

endeavors of the Iranians and the cooperation of the contracting state, Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, has commissioned in full conformity with the Agency's standards thus brought into realization my people's long awaited aspiration. The plant was commissioned after the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants accident with consideration of initial stress test evaluations and primary Safety measures were done accordingly. Further analysis will be followed respectively for implementation of "IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety". The main reason for the delay in bringing the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant into operational phase, was the insistence and emphasis of the government and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the careful observation of all nuclear safety aspects, so that all the global community, specially the people residing adjacent to the plant and in the Persian Gulf countries, shall live a tranquil and safe life. Thanks to the marvelous and splendid work of Iranian scientists in the field of nuclear safety such as Dr. Shahriari and Dr. Ali-Mohammadi.

I have to recall that upon the invitation extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IAEA mission of Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) in Iran, in March of the 2010, confirmed the activities of my country's nuclear safety system for deploying the relevant standards in the Bushehr Power Plant. This confirmation by the Agency's safety regulatory monitoring organ as well as by a group composed of the highest ranking safety authorities of some of the Member States is yet another vivid indication of Iran's commitment to International Nuclear Safety Regulations.

Mr. President, Distinguished Representatives,

As we have mentioned previously the Islamic Republic of Iran has commenced the legal procedures for the accession to the Convention on Nuclear Safety which is in progress.

Once again I would like to emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys nuclear science and technology and is determined to comply with safety regulations, expecting to favor all its rights, so that it can fulfill its obligations.

I Thank you Mr. President
