INTRODUCTORY REMARKS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Monsieur le Président,

I would like to provide you with a brief introduction for item 3 of the Agenda regarding progress in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

The report presented under this item, rather than addressing the totality of the Action Plan, which has been reported recently in details at the September Board, focuses today on the specific topic of the IAEA's arrangements developed in the light of the accident at the Fukushima NPP to provide information during a nuclear or radiological emergency, with a goal to better assist all potentially affected Member States in decision-making for their own response actions in such an emergency.

The IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety endorsed unanimously at the General Conference in September 2011 expanded the IAEA's response role in an emergency at a nuclear power plant under the action Communication and information dissemination. Later, the General Conference through its Resolution GC(57)/RES/9 requested "the Secretariat, in close cooperation with Member States, [...] to continue to maintain and further develop arrangements to provide Member States, international organizations and the general public with timely, clear, factually correct, objective and easily understandable information during a nuclear or radiological emergency, including the analysis of available information and the prognosis of potential consequences."

The IAEA Secretariat in consultation with Member States and international organizations has worked on practical implementation of the IAEA's response role defining objectives, process, constraints and limitations. The Report presented to the Board summarises the results achieved so far in the implementation of this important task of the Action Plan and provides opportunities for further dialogue with Member States.

The process which has been developed builds on existing international emergency preparedness and response framework complemented by Member States capabilities through the IAEA Response and Assistance Network or other agreements. It is aimed at the provision of a consistent message to Member States and the general public. It is however, important to note that the results of the IAEA's assessment and prognosis will depend on the timely provision of data from a Member State, where an accident happened, and from other Member States. Strong commitment and coordinated efforts of Member States and Secretariat are required for success in implementing the IAEA's response role.

Monsieur le Président,

Before closing my remarks, I would like to mention some highlights of the activities conducted by the Secretariat to advance the implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety since last September, including peer review missions, international conferences and experts meetings:

Since September, an intense programme of Peer Review Missions has continued to be carried out: one IRRS mission to the Czech Republic and two follow-up missions to the UK and Russian Federation; the first OSART Corporate mission at CEZ, Czech Republic; 2 OSART preparatory meetings in France and one mission on the Safety of Long Term Operation (SALTO) in Brazil at Angra 1; and finally two INSARR missions on the Safety of Research Reactors (INSARR) to Pretoria, South Africa, and to Pavia, Italy.

- The work on preparing the IAEA Fukushima Comprehensive Report has been progressing in September and October, with more than 120 experts taking part in the working group meetings to prepare the Report.
- A Senior Management Workshop was conducted on Safety Culture from 11 to 13 October 2013 in Japan at the request of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), which introduced a Nuclear Safety Reform Plan following the Fukushima Daiichi accident.
- Also in October, two international conferences were organised: one in Vienna on the Advances and Challenges for Nuclear Safety in the area of Defence in Depth, and the other in Abu Dhabi, on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: Maintaining the Continuous Global Control of Sources throughout their life cycle. Even if this last one was not formally organised in the frame of the Action Plan, it addressed issues which have close links to it, such as peer reviews, legal and regulatory framework...
- Additionally, two further International Experts' Meetings are being currently organised in Vienna: one on Radiation Protection after the Fukushima Daiichi Accident, from 17 to 21 February 2014, and the other on Severe Accident Management in Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, from 17 to 21 March 2014.

Merci Monsieur le Président.