

**Remarks at  
Senior Regulators' Meeting**

**29 September 2016**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I welcome you all to this Senior Regulators' Meeting.

Nuclear power has made great strides in the 60 years since the establishment of the IAEA. It is now in use in some 30 countries.

Around 30 more countries are considering introducing nuclear power. As you know, the Agency assists them in every way we can.

One of the points which we stress to potential newcomers is the vital importance of having strong and independent regulators, with sufficient resources to do their jobs.

The need for effective regulation has gained increased recognition since the Fukushima Daiichi accident five years ago.

Since the accident, all countries with nuclear power programmes have taken vigorous steps to reassess all aspects of safety and to make improvements, where necessary. Some countries have reformed their regulatory systems.

I believe the need to maintain a robust safety culture is now universally recognised.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2011 IAEA *Action Plan on Nuclear Safety* made a valuable contribution to improving safety globally after the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

As requested by our Member States, I submitted a report to the Board of Governors last week which was sub-titled *Building on the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety*. It outlines our plans to help to strengthen nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety in a more comprehensive manner.

In future, we will focus more on safety aspects of issues such as extending the operating life of nuclear power plants, decommissioning, the disposal of high level radioactive waste, innovative technologies such as fast reactors and small and medium sized reactors, and the safety of radiation sources used in non-power applications.

Continued close cooperation with regulators will be essential in all of these areas.

We will also continue to strengthen IAEA safety standards, offer peer review and advisory services, and support education and training.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every country that uses nuclear technology has a responsibility to create a robust framework for safety and security. This is a national responsibility that cannot be outsourced.

The IAEA is the global platform for cooperation in nuclear safety and security, including through meetings such as this, which bring practitioners together to share experiences and learn from each other.

I encourage all countries which have, or are considering introducing, nuclear power, to become parties to the *Convention on Nuclear Safety*.

This is a very important mechanism which has contributed a lot to strengthening nuclear safety in the countries which are party to it.

I also encourage all countries to make full use of the services which the IAEA offers in both nuclear safety and security. One of our most important peer review services – the *Integrated Regulatory Review Service*, or IRRS – has its 10th anniversary this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have three very interesting sessions ahead of you in the next two days.

I wish you a very successful meeting.

Thank you.