

Convention on Nuclear Safety

6th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties

IAEA 24 March - 4 April 2014

Vienna, Austria

Mr. D.Flory (DDG-NS) Opening Statement

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the 6th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

The previous Review Meeting started at a time when the nuclear power industry faced an important challenge. The earthquake and tsunami that damaged the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP have shown that natural phenomena are merciless and that there must be no complacency to effectively protect NPPs from such external hazards.

Within the last three years, significant progress has been made to further strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection around the world.

The IAEA has substantially contributed to this effort by its Action Plan on Nuclear Safety which was unanimously endorsed at the 2011 IAEA General Conference. Progress, reported periodically to IAEA Member States, continues to be made with the implementation of the Action Plan, through enhancing the IAEA peer reviews, reviewing and revising the IAEA Safety Standards, and strengthening the international Legal Framework, amongst other things.

Just last week, we organised here in Vienna the International Experts' Meeting on Severe Accident Management in the light of the accident at the Fukushima NPP . This was already the seventh IEM to analyse technical aspects of the accident and ensure that all lessons are learned and shared.

Director General Amano requested us to produce an authoritative, factual and balanced assessment of the accident, addressing the causes and consequences as well as lessons learned. The IAEA Fukushima Report is on track to be finalized by the end of 2014, with the plan to share this report in 2015 to the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference. Approximately 170 experts from over 40 Member States and relevant international organizations are involved in drafting the Report. Presentations on the status of the implementation of the Action Plan and on the Fukushima Report will be provided by Mr Gustavo Caruso, next week.

Contracting Parties have asked the Secretariat to prepare the IAEA Generic Safety Observation Report, presenting observations on significant issues related to the safety of nuclear installations based on all information available to the IAEA during the period since the last Organizational Meeting held in August 2012. The Report will be made available at the time of the 7th Organizational Meeting.

The Working Group on Effectiveness and Transparency, established at the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting and tasked to report to this Review Meeting on a list of actions to strengthen the CNS and on proposals to amend, where necessary, the Convention, successfully finalised its work in November last year. Several actions were identified as recommendations from the Contracting Parties to the IAEA and were submitted as a joint proposal of thirty nine Contracting Parties to the 6th Review Meeting. The Secretariat is prepared to implement the actions which will be approved by Contracting Parties at this Review Meeting, upon availability of resources.

The CNS is today a mature international instrument, and today the 6th Review Meeting is clearly expected to demonstrate the commitment of Contracting Parties to strengthening the effectiveness of the Convention and more globally to strengthening nuclear safety.

I wish you a successful meeting.