



## Convention on Nuclear Safety

Dear Colleagues,

11 February 2016

It was an honour to have been elected as the President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the *Convention on Nuclear Safety* (CNS) and I appreciate the confidence you have shown in me. With your continued support, I will do my best to ensure that this Review Meeting provides the means by which all Contracting Parties will have a successful peer review, in order to enhance global nuclear safety. I call on all Contracting Parties to fulfill their obligations under the CNS.

This Review Meeting will provide us the opportunity to demonstrate to the world the effectiveness of the CNS at maintaining and improving nuclear safety. We will clearly show that operators and regulators have learned from and acted upon the lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident. The Contracting Parties took an important step in this regard by adopting the *Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety*. The declaration includes three principles to guide Contracting Parties in implementing the objectives of the CNS. To provide a consistent way to report on these principles and to allow for a fulsome peer review, I request Contracting Parties to use the summary of their National Reports to clearly describe the actions that have been taken to address the principles outlined in the declaration. More detailed reporting should be done under the relevant CNS articles.

As a final word on the declaration, I would like to thank Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi for chairing the Informal Technical Meeting in Buenos Aires in November 2015, where the implementation of the declaration and possible improvements to the CNS processes were discussed. I would also like to offer my personal thanks to all Contracting Parties and other bodies which participated.

Contracting Parties at the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting, called on all Contracting Parties to commit to the effective implementation of the Convention review process. To this end, revisions to the guidance documents available to assist Contracting Parties were agreed by consensus to enhance the preparation of National Reports and to improve the review process.

The Summary Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting called upon Contracting Parties to report on:

- how the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident are being addressed (to which I would add addressing the observations and lessons in the IAEA Director General's Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident); and,
- findings from peer review missions and the progress made in implementing the associated action plans in response to these findings including any follow-up mission to confirm the actions were implemented.

As President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting, I further request that all Contracting Parties report on the five challenges identified by the Special Rapporteur at the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting also documented in the Summary Report.

As a reminder, all Contracting Parties, particularly those who are not Contracting Parties to the *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*, must address the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste on site under Article 19 (viii) of the CNS.

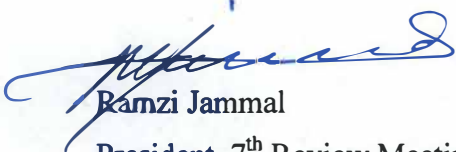
Additionally, I urge you to consider using the template developed to assist in the preparation of Articles 17 and 18 in your National Reports. The template, which is posted on the CNS website, provides suggestions for obtaining more consistency and focus within National Reports, but its use would also further the goal of promoting the use of IAEA Safety Standards.

Finally, in order to continue to increase the transparency of the review meetings, all Contracting Parties should make their National Reports publicly available before the Review Meeting along with the questions and comments received during the review process.

In conclusion, I hope these requests along with the revised guidance documents will be helpful in preparing high-quality National Reports – the first step in a robust peer review process. In this regard, I invite any Contracting Parties which require guidance or support with the preparation of their National Reports to contact me directly at [ramzi.jammal@canada.ca](mailto:ramzi.jammal@canada.ca). I will be working with the IAEA Secretariat to find ways to provide assistance and/or training to Contracting Parties as needed. I plan to follow up with additional requests that will focus on ensuring all Contracting Parties are able to fully participate in the peer review process.

I look forward to working with you, to reading your National Reports, and to a successful 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting in 2017.

Sincerely,



Ramzi Jammal

President, 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the CNS