

André-Claude LACOSTE

OPENING PLENARY SESSION 24 March 10h-10h35

The Deputy Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me to chair the 6th review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and a privilege to give this opening speech to the first plenary session.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Contracting Parties who unanimously elected me President. I can assure you that with the help of the two Vice-Presidents, Mr Sukho LEE and Mr Khoirul HUDA, I will do everything I can to make this review meeting as effective, useful and productive as possible.

- The considerable attendance at this opening session clearly demonstrates the importance attached to this event. It shows that the review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety is one of the most important, if not the most important forum, bringing together so many Contracting Parties and so many safety regulators, with the aim of ensuring progress in nuclear safety around the world.
- 3 years have now gone by since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, which so deeply affected activities not only in those countries operating nuclear power reactors, but also in other countries highly concerned by the level of nuclear safety around the world. It is important to ensure that this 6th review meeting is an opportunity for extensive and animated exchanges between the participants and leads to clear conclusions.
- In order to present my goals as President of this review meeting in greater detail, I will speak again at the end of this plenary session.
- You will note that my speech will follow that from Patrick Majerus. He was the expert and open-minded chair of the “efficiency and transparency working group”, whose report was sent out on-time to each Contracting Party.

High-quality work was completed and numerous discussions carried out within this group led to concrete proposals designed to reinforce the convention's mechanisms.

- I would therefore end this initial speech by expressing the hope that each and every one of us realises what an opportunity the review meeting starting today represents for progress and for international cooperation.