

André-Claude LACOSTE

**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE 6th RM of the CNS
24 March 12h-12h20**

We all hope that this review meeting will be as effective, useful and productive as possible and that it will allow progress to be made in the field of nuclear safety. To achieve this overall goal, we can rely only on our own work, that of all the participants in this meeting, who are here in Vienna for two weeks. I would differentiate between four categories of participants, the involvement of all of whom is absolutely necessary:

- a) The IAEA representatives: some have already worked hard to prepare this meeting; their commitment must be sustained for these two weeks and we need the engagement of the Agency's high level staff.
- b) The officers of the country groups: they will be responsible for conducting the debates in the country groups and will be at the heart of the national reports peer review process.
- c) The President and the 2 Vice-Presidents of the review meeting: Their strong involvement is required for the duration of the meeting. Particular emphasis must be placed on the importance of the role of the Vice-President, who will chair the Open Ended Working Group: in the plenary session, this group will put forward the proposals to reinforce the Convention process.
- d) Finally, the Contracting Parties. They are and must be involved in all phases of the Convention, and at the highest level. I have identified five essential actions on the part of the Contracting Parties:
 1. Firstly, the drafting of a complete, clear and well-structured report, submitted to IAEA on-time; More than 40% of the reports were not posted on the IAEA website within the required time. This is not a good sign;
 2. Secondly, analysis of the reports from the other Contracting Parties and the submission of questions; this is a key step for a review meeting, which is above all a peer review. More than 40% of the Contracting Parties sent no questions to their peers. This is also not a good sign..
 3. Thirdly, the presentation of the national report, which must be informative, concise and which must follow on from the previous meeting and show that the recommendations have been taken into account;
 4. Fourthly, I would mention participation at the presentations by the other countries, at least those of one's own country group, for real and in-depth discussions;
 5. And, finally, the Contracting Parties must show a good level of participation at the plenary session discussions in the second week, for real involvement in the drafting of the final reports.

In short, it is therefore clear that achieving the goals of the review meeting entails effective participation and cooperation by all.

I will now return to the goals of this review meeting. How are we to implement the general goal, which is to bring about improvements in the field of nuclear safety?

As President of the meeting, what I expect of this meeting is to achieve three precise objectives:

1. This meeting must allow wide-ranging, animated, high-quality discussions, with real commitment by all parties, so that it is a true peer review, where we all learn from the others.
2. This meeting must lead to improvement in the mechanisms of the Convention:
 - * Considerable work has already been done by the “effectiveness and transparency” Working Group chaired by Patrick Majerus. I trust that the actions and recommendations already discussed at length will be globally approved.
 - * Along the same lines, it is important that the Swiss proposal for an amendment to the Convention be examined and discussed.

Thus, to have the time to cover these subjects in depth, and in addition to the meetings of the Open Ended Working Group, which will be held on a daily basis this first week, we decided to have a full day devoted to the results of the group and to the discussions concerning the Swiss proposal for an amendment of Article 18 of the Convention.

3. Finally, three years after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, this meeting should enable us to adopt a stance on the lessons to be learned from this accident. You can see that a full day has been set aside during the second week to deal specifically with this subject, but I would already like to mention a point to which I attach particular importance.

The final summary report of the 2nd extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention included a conclusion number 17 concerning the lessons to be learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. I have worked with many of you on updating and clarifying this conclusion. The wording I would currently like to see included in the conclusions of this meeting is as follows:

For new builds, the objective is to prevent accidents and, should an accident occur, to mitigate its effects and avoid large as well as long term off-site contamination.

This objective is used as a reference for improving the safety of existing nuclear installations.

I attach great importance to this, but we will discuss it when the time comes.

To conclude, I would like to stress the need to promote the works carried out during the review meeting of the Convention and make the process more transparent. To do this:

- a) Our meeting will be open to journalists:
 - during the opening plenary session (in other words, now)
 - during the final discussion of the summary report, towards the end of the afternoon on Thursday 3 April.
- b) In addition, a press conference will be held on Friday 4 April to present the conclusions of our review meeting. The President and the 2 Vice-Presidents will address a group of journalists and will be able to promote the results of this 6th review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

I hope that you have a meeting that is both stimulating and highly informative.