

Information Circular

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Declaration by the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in Vienna on 20 June 2011

We, the Ministers of the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), gathered in Vienna in light of the serious consequences of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami to direct, under the leading role of the IAEA, the process of learning and acting upon lessons to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide,

1. Express sympathy for and solidarity with Japan in connection with the unprecedented earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011, which caused much loss of life and severe damage, and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station; and emphasize the resolve of the international community to continue to assist Japan in its efforts to mitigate and overcome the consequences of the disaster and the accident;
2. Recognize the efforts of the international community to enhance knowledge in nuclear safety and radiation protection and strengthen international standards in nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and response and radiation protection of people and the environment and the need to draw the lessons from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station;
3. Recognize that some States consider nuclear power as a viable option in meeting their energy needs, while other States have decided not to use or to phase out nuclear energy;
4. Recognize that nuclear accidents may have transboundary effects and raise the concerns of the public about the safety of nuclear energy and the radiological effects on people and the environment; and emphasize the importance of adequate responses based on scientific knowledge and full transparency, should a nuclear accident occur;
5. Underline that States with nuclear power programmes have a central role in ensuring the application of the highest standards of nuclear safety; and emphasize the responsibility of these

- States for providing a timely, transparent and adequate response to nuclear accidents in order to minimize their consequences;
6. Emphasize the importance of implementing enhanced national and international measures to ensure that the highest and most robust levels of nuclear safety are in place, based on IAEA safety standards, which should be continuously reviewed, strengthened and implemented as broadly and effectively as possible and commit to increase bilateral, regional and international cooperation to that effect;
 7. Commit to strengthening the central role of the IAEA in promoting international cooperation and in coordinating international efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, in providing expertise and advice in this field and in promoting nuclear safety culture worldwide;
 8. Encourage the close cooperation and coordination among the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on nuclear safety related matters;
 9. Stress the importance that the IAEA should be further enabled to meet the high level of public expectation to provide timely, factually correct and objective information and assessments of nuclear accidents and their radiological consequences;
 10. Welcome the reports submitted by Japan and the IAEA International Fact-Finding Mission to Japan, which include preliminary assessments of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station;
 11. Stress the need to receive from Japan and the IAEA a comprehensive and fully transparent assessment of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident in order for the international community to be able to draw and act upon the lessons learned, including a review of IAEA safety standards that are relevant to the accident, in particular those pertaining to multiple severe hazards;
 12. Underline the benefits of strengthened and high quality independent international safety expert assessments, in particular within the established IAEA framework, through periodic reviews and evaluation missions assessing national regulatory frameworks, emergency preparedness and response and nuclear power plant operation in order to ensure continuous improvement of the safety of nuclear installations on the basis of internationally agreed rules and procedures;
 13. Encourage States with operating nuclear power plants to conduct, as a response to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, comprehensive risk and safety assessments of their nuclear power plants in a transparent manner;
 14. Emphasize the responsibility of the nuclear industry and operators in the implementation of nuclear safety measures and call upon them and their associations to fully support and actively contribute to international efforts to enhance nuclear safety by, inter alia, furthering transparency and prioritizing safety considerations;
 15. Commit to further strengthening the authority, competence and resources of national regulatory authorities, including through appropriate technical and scientific support and to continuously ensure their effective independence;
 16. Reiterate the importance of universal adherence to and the effective implementation and continuous review of the relevant international instruments on nuclear safety, consider the possibility of strengthening the international legal framework in this area; and recognize the Agency's enhanced efforts to that effect;

17. Underline further the importance of adequate, prompt and continuous information sharing in the case of an accident, transparency and exchange of best practices among States in all aspects of nuclear safety;
18. Underline that the freest possible flow and wide dissemination of safety related technical and technological information enhances nuclear safety, which is essentially technical in nature and of global concern; and note the role that innovative technologies can play in improving nuclear safety;
19. Emphasize the need to improve national, regional and international emergency preparedness and response to nuclear accidents, including through the possible creation of rapid reaction capacity and the development of training in the field of crisis management at the regional and international levels, as well as to strengthen cooperation among national authorities, technical safety organizations, operators and among relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and call for a strengthened role of the IAEA in emergency preparedness and response by promoting and possibly expanding existing IAEA response and assistance capabilities;
20. Underline the need for States operating nuclear power programmes and the IAEA to promote capacity building, including education and training for both regulators and operators;
21. Underline the need for States planning to embark on a nuclear power programme to create an appropriate nuclear safety infrastructure based on IAEA safety standards and relevant guidance and assistance, using, among others, effective IAEA technical cooperation mechanisms for supporting the safe and secure use of nuclear technologies;
22. Recognize the need for a global nuclear liability regime that addresses the concerns of all States that might be affected by a nuclear accident with a view to providing appropriate compensation for nuclear damage;
23. Request the IAEA Director General to prepare a report on the June 2011 IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety and a draft Action Plan, building on this Declaration and the conclusions and recommendations of the three Working Sessions, and the expertise and knowledge available therein; and to promote coordination and cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant international organizations to follow up on the outcomes of the Conference, as well as facilitate consultations among Member States on the draft Action Plan;
24. Request the IAEA Director General to present this report and the draft Action Plan covering all the relevant aspects relating to nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and response and radiation protection of people and the environment, as well as the relevant international legal framework, to the IAEA Board of Governors and General Conference at their forthcoming meetings in 2011;
25. Call upon the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference to reflect the outcome of this Conference in their decisions and to support the effective, prompt and adequately resourced implementation of the Action Plan.