



# *The Kingdom of Morocco*

## *Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation*

### **Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

### *Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco*

***Fukushima, 15 December 2012***

**Mr. President  
Excellencies,**

The Kingdom of Morocco would like to convey its appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, which is intended to closely examine the issue of nuclear safety and to assess the progress made by countries in strengthening their nuclear safety infrastructure as well as their emergency response capabilities.

I seize this opportunity to commend all the efforts made by the Japanese Government in connection to nuclear safety since last year's tragic accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Nuclear Power Stations, and want you to know, Mr. President, that Morocco fully subscribes to the measures undertaken by Japan, as well as the resilience and spirit of the Japanese people to overcome the challenges faced in the post-accidental phase.

**Excellencies,**

The Fukushima accident which took place under unprecedented and unimaginable circumstances, reminds us, that ensuring nuclear safety through maintaining the highest scale of nuclear safety and security standards, as well as long-term disaster-preparedness and strong international cooperation, are key to face the several challenges ahead of us.

We shall recall that the June 2011 IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, served as a platform to make an initial assessment of the Fukushima nuclear accident and to learn lessons from it. It also provided the necessary impetus to strengthen the international nuclear safety framework. Later, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), endorsed the Action Plan on nuclear safety. The significance of this Action Plan cannot be underestimated, as it charts the way forward for an effective and reliable global nuclear safety framework.

Besides, The Fukushima disaster provided the impetus to broaden the Seoul 2012 Nuclear Security Agenda to include nuclear safety, and more specifically, the "nexus of safety and security". Indeed, since Fukushima, international awareness and consensus on the need to strengthen safety and security measures simultaneously have grown quickly.

Our gathering today offers indeed a valuable opportunity to advance our international determination to review, strengthen and upgrade, as necessary, nuclear safety standards, practices and capabilities to the highest possible levels. This Conference should also send a strong and clear political signal of support for strengthening the International Nuclear Safety Regime.

**Excellencies,**

Morocco attaches utmost importance to a high level of nuclear safety worldwide, and considers that beyond nuclear safety being a national responsibility, it has trans-boundary dimensions and implications at the regional and international levels. Hence international cooperation is indispensable.

It is for this reason, that my delegation reiterates the need for strengthening cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Nuclear safety is indeed a matter of global concern which requires global attention and response. As important elements of this international cooperation, transparency in the exchange of information and efficient coordination in the case of emergencies should be part of national strategies. In this regard, I would like also to emphasize the need to strengthen technical cooperation based programs, in particular for Member States from developing countries, on issues related to nuclear safety, through technology transfer.

Reinforcing a global safety regime will evolve on the basis of international and regional cooperation, and coordination. This latter can be shaped, inter alia, by setting new standards, sharing

of experiences with a new emphasis of cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, through existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and the implementation of relevant international conventions pertaining to nuclear safety.

## **Excellencies,**

The Kingdom of Morocco is confident that addressing nuclear safety related challenges, requires undertaking the following measures:

- Adopting integrated and harmonized international standards with regard to nuclear safety.
- Establishing an international regime for safety.
- Developing, at the national level, the necessary infrastructure that recognizes the importance of nuclear safety culture.

In this context, consistent with its international obligations, and endeavouring to enhance its nuclear safety infrastructure, Morocco has undertaken effective measures on the basis of a national strategy which seeks to establish a robust national infrastructure for nuclear safety and security, that includes the legal and regulatory framework, the development of human resources and the strengthening of the safety culture.

Indeed, Morocco is enhancing its legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety, by elaborating a new Draft Law on nuclear and radiological safety and security, currently in the process of being adopted, with the objective to regulate all applications, and to establish an independent authority for nuclear safety and nuclear security, endowed with the necessary resources. Furthermore, Morocco signed the IAEA Additional Protocol of the Safeguards Agreements in 2004, and ratified it last year. Morocco also committed itself to the codes of conduct on the safety of research reactors and on the safety and security of radioactive sources, and has been active in promoting the application of these codes at the national and regional levels.

Morocco is also working to enhance its capabilities for emergency preparedness and response to face nuclear and radiological emergencies through plans, protocols, training and exercises. In particular, he's enhancing its notification and information exchange systems both at the national and international levels, as well as the mechanisms of requesting assistance. More recently, Morocco was entrusted to organise, in cooperation with the IAEA, the International Conventional Exercise "ConvEx-3 (2013)", that will test and assess countries and international organizations' efficiency in exchanging information, responding to a major radiological emergency and coordinating international assistance, in conformity with the two conventions on early notification and assistance in the case of a nuclear or radiological emergencies, both of which are ratified by Morocco.

It is the first International Exercise of its kind that will be conducted on the basis of both, safety and security aspects, and will constitute a valuable contribution to the enhancement of the international nuclear safety and security regime.

## **Excellencies,**

Morocco is confident that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays a central role and has a key responsibility in strengthening the international nuclear safety framework, through developing international norms and assisting its Member States in establishing effective nuclear safety infrastructure.

From another perspective, it has been widely recognized, that the key guarantee for safety is qualified Human Resources. It offers great success for any activity or national program that contributes to the socio-economic development of a country. In this spirit, my delegation welcomes the efforts that the IAEA has made to ensure, in close cooperation with Member States, especially developing countries, appropriate tailored training in the area of nuclear safety, which significantly contributes to the promotion of a culture of nuclear safety.

In this regard, and within the framework of its cooperation with the IAEA, Morocco organizes at the national and regional levels, several training events, through the National Training and Support Centre of Excellence in Nuclear Safety, which benefits nearly 100 African trainees. The Moroccan expertise in this field makes it an adequate platform for training and education in the field of radiological safety in Africa, within the framework of South-south cooperation, which represents one of the cornerstones of the Moroccan Foreign Policy.

### **Excellencies,**

I look forward to the success of our meeting these three days, in further consolidating international action to promote nuclear safety. A strong international consensus coupled with a strengthened international safety standards, are important pre-requisites to adequately safeguard our people.

The Kingdom of Morocco will remain committed to working with Member States in reaching the common goals in Nuclear Safety, for a safe and secure world.

I thank you very much.

