

**Mr. President, His Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and
Gentlemen,**

First of all, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the Japanese Government for organizing this very actual and important conference on a timely basis.

On behalf of my Government, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest condolences to the Japanese people and government, for their grave loss as a result of the natural disaster which devastated the country.

We sincerely believe that this Conference will create a good opportunity to strengthen world wide emergency preparedness and response, and launch the process of reviewing the global nuclear safety framework in order to strengthen it. Let me begin my speech with the recent developments concerning the nuclear energy sector in my country.

I would like to recall that Turkey has signed an agreement with the Russian Federation for the construction and operation of four VVER-1200 type nuclear power plants with 4800 MWe total capacity at the Akkuyu site, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

Additionally, Turkey has also plans for the construction of a nuclear power plant with 5000 MWe capacity at the Sinop site, this time on the shores of the Black Sea. Turkey is striving to have at least 10 000 MWe installed nuclear capacity in the next 10-15 years.

Needless to say that Fukushima Accident has initiated the discussion of ways and means to improve the Agency's work on nuclear safety. In this context, we note with great appreciation the significant progress made in the implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and the concrete actions of the Secretariat and Member States, in particular with regard to stress tests, capacity-building activities and enhancement of emergency preparedness and response measures. Turkey attaches utmost importance to support IAEA's efforts to promote and maintain high level of nuclear safety worldwide and encourages the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its efforts related to nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, particularly in areas that are vital for Member States.

Moreover, Turkey voluntarily accepted to join the EU stress tests program and has performed stress test studies for the provided design data of the Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant Project. The national report was sent to EU in May 2012.

This is a demonstration of Turkey's commitment to the adoption and implementation of the most rigorous safety standards in the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in Turkey.

Dear Participants,

The Fukushima accident has once again brought the attention of the world to the importance of nuclear safety. In order to prevent recurrence of such an accident, we must continue our efforts vigorously to enhance nuclear safety. The lessons learned from Fukushima will guide us through this path. We highly appreciate the activities organized by the IAEA to share the expertise gained from the results of this unfortunate event.

Nuclear and radiological emergencies are covered in the "Turkish National Regulation on Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies". This regulation covers the roles and responsibilities of governmental authorities and is going to be revised to include the criteria, levels and operational concepts which are in line with IAEA's recent approach. Also a regulation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards was prepared by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) operating under the office of the Prime Minister.

The Emergency Preparedness and Coordination Unit of Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAEK) was re-organized as the Disaster and Emergency Management Center after the Fukushima Accident in accordance with the "Regulation on Emergency Management Centers" that was issued by AFAD prior to the accident.

TAEK is the primary organization for gathering and releasing information in case a nuclear or radiological emergency occurs and, as the competent authority, will have to notify IAEA on emergencies in the context of the Early Notification Convention.

The Early Warning Environmental Radiation Monitoring System (RESA), which was designed, established and operated by TAEK, is on-line with currently 127 stations. The system is being operated with increasing number of stations. TAEK participates and submits data on a voluntary basis to European Radiological Data Exchange Platform.

The European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange (ECURIE) agreement was signed by the European Community and Turkey. After the ratification of the said agreement, CODECS (ECURIE software) system will be installed for the ECURIE purposes.

The Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant located in Armenia, in proximity to our border and located in an earthquake zone, has insufficient protective structures in terms of nuclear safety. This issue still remains to be a great concern for Turkey and other neighbours of Armenia. The regions close to our eastern border are considered as critical locations, vulnerable to possible radiological consequences, where urgent protective measures should be taken in case of an accident.

Nuclear security together with safety is an area which Turkey gives particular importance upon. We therefore will continue our close cooperation with the Agency in this field.

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for your attention and I wish you a fruitful conference.