

Opening Statement by the Head of the German Delegation, Mr. Hennenhoefer, at the Fukushima Ministerial Conference, 15. Dec. 2012

Distinguished Co-Presidents of this Meeting,

Ministers,

Mr. Director General Amano

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the head of the German delegation I want to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Japan and to the IAEA for organizing this conference and inviting our delegation.

We are grateful for the extraordinary hospitality extended by the Government of Japan, by the prefecture of Fukushima and by the city of Koriyama.

Let me acknowledge the tremendous efforts made for recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, the tsunami and the Fukushima Daiichi accidents.

As you know Germany has decided to phase out nuclear electricity generation within the next ten years. But Germany will remain an active member of IAEA and further contribute to the enhancement of nuclear safety worldwide. The member states of the European Union in reaction to the Fukushima Daiichi accident have undertaken stress tests in all EU nuclear power plants and demonstrated by this their strong commitment to comprehensively improve nuclear safety.

This conference is another important step forward in this direction and I am confident it will make a valuable contribution to promote transparency and to strengthen nuclear safety here and worldwide.

Let me ensure you that the German delegation will actively participate in this conference. Thank you.