

Director General, Ministers, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Government of Japan and the IAEA for hosting this very important Conference on Nuclear Safety here in Fukushima. This is indeed a fitting place to hold such a conference. Much work has been done on nuclear safety since the Ministerial Conference in Vienna in June last year. We can now take stock of our achievements and discuss the way forward.

Last year's accident in Fukushima was an eye-opener for the whole world. It demonstrated the inherent uncertainties and risks of nuclear power – and how urgent it is for us to engage in efforts to prevent nuclear accidents in the future.

In our view, both the IAEA and its Member States have a crucial role to play in reducing the risk of future accidents to a minimum. We welcome the national safety reviews of nuclear plants that have been conducted in Japan since the Fukushima accident and call for similar stress tests to be carried out for all existing and planned nuclear facilities worldwide.

In addition, we should increase efforts to ensure multilateral co-operation concerning the safety of nuclear installations. We must review the IAEA safety standards, the safety conventions and other international instruments with a view to strengthening requirements for reporting, review, transparency and information sharing. Norway calls on all states to join and adhere to the relevant conventions and to the code of conduct on the safety of research reactors, and to recast the code of conduct so that it becomes a legally binding instrument.

Nuclear safety remains a **national responsibility**. However, as we were reminded last year, nuclear accidents do not respect national borders. In the Fukushima case, the physical and radiological effects on people and the environment were largely confined to a limited geographical area, but the broader repercussions were international from the start and are continuing to be felt to this day. Such effects can only be dealt with through international cooperation.

Information sharing between nations, both directly and through the IAEA, and not least the provision of accurate and timely information to the general public is crucial in this respect.

In this context, I would like to mention that Norway supports further efforts to enhance collaboration between states in connection with maritime transport of radioactive materials. Enhanced collaboration in this area would help to address relevant safety and security issues in a better way. We are therefore chairing a working group on voluntary, best practice guidelines for government-to-government communication in connection with maritime transports of this kind. We ask for all concerned states to support this work.

Improving nuclear safety is imperative, but we also need to be prepared for the totally unexpected – and for dealing with it.

The Fukushima accident underlined the urgent need for improvements in **emergency preparedness and response**. We must develop our national capacities and capabilities in this

area as well as the IAEA Secretariat's capabilities to facilitate and coordinate cooperation among Member States, so that these capacities are used effectively.

We should also discuss additional measures in the field of emergency preparedness and response. We need to review the **Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident**. In particular, the threshold for this kind of notification must be lowered. We also see the need for improved implementation of the **Assistance Convention** in order to make it a more effective tool for international cooperation. The fact that both the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention lack mechanisms for regular review and improvement is not acceptable.

My delegation welcomes the continued implementation of the **IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety**. We call on the IAEA and all its Member States to continue their efforts in this context. We also look forward to the continued implementation of the recommendations provided in the **International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies**. Norway has recently initiated the development of minimum compatibility requirements for international assistance as a follow-up of these recommendations. We consider this work to be of the utmost importance. The development of international nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness and response will need to remain on top of our list of priorities in the years to come.

Finally, nuclear safety can never be dealt with in isolation; nuclear security and non-proliferation must also be taken into account. It must be of global concern to make sure that nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation are all dealt with together so as to minimise the various inherent dangers of nuclear power. There is still plenty of scope for better coordination of safety and security work, both multilaterally through the IAEA and nationally.

Thank you.