

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
FUKUSHIMA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY
15th -17th DECEMBER 2012, JAPAN
TALKING NOTES FOR HON. PROF. MAKAME MBARAWA, MINISTER
FOR COMMUNICATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-TANZANIA

Mr. President of the Conference

Hon Ministers

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On the behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, may I take this opportunity to express appreciation on the actions taken ever since the Fukushima accident and the follow up of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety that was convened in Vienna, Austria, in June 2011. The Government recognizes and puts emphasis on these actions since safety enhancement is continuous process. The action plan will continue to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and radiation protection of human beings.

It is my anticipation that this conference will provide an opportunity to further learn lessons and progress of international efforts made in the noble issues of nuclear safety.

Distinguished Delegates

There are currently two major trends occurring with regard to nuclear power. The first one is efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and the second is the growing

interest in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The incident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was a result of a devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami on March 11, 2011 and indeed has re-invigorated the debates on how to meet the world's growing demands for energy and the contribution of nuclear power to the global energy mix. Across all countries, greater attention is likely to be paid to aspects of safety and regulation, including both infrastructure and education, and that ambitious timelines for planning, construction, and implementation of power plants may become more realistic. The incident is likely to encourage operational and technological improvements, hence resulting in a wide range of actions and measures to improve the safety of the technology by various governments, vendors and utilities worldwide in response to public concerns.

Distinguished Delegates

Tanzania even though a non-nuclear weapon state and have no nuclear power reactor, have proven to be responsible signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other international agreements. Tanzania has always been active on measures relating to the security and safety of radioactive sources as such dispersion of radioactive materials that could also go beyond state borders in area of concern. Reports through IAEA show that hundreds of medical and industrial radioactive sources are abandoned, stolen or lost likely to constituting both safety and security concern. The United Republic of Tanzania wish to see this category of discussion is also addressed in the action plan of this Ministerial Conference.

Distinguished Delegates

The Fukushima accident prompted an immediate review of the safety of nuclear energy in most countries with nuclear programmes. Many of these countries announced comprehensive safety reviews, which could lead to regulatory changes that would slow or even eliminate plans for expansions of and investments in nuclear power. In contrast, several countries (mostly developing countries) have re-affirmed their intentions to

develop nuclear power as an important part of their energy mix, or substantially increase nuclear capacity. They are motivated by the need to meet rising power demands efficiently, and/or the desire to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and quell associated concerns about security of supply and emissions. This implies that those in favour of nuclear energy may call for improvements in safety procedures and plans, including the reconsideration of future sites of new nuclear power plants. However, it is still possible to share examples of best practice between countries and operators. This will also prompt the need to further develop reactor designs to withstand multiple traumas and cope with possible system failures. This 'nuclear renaissance' should be welcomed, but not without reservation because the growth in nuclear power generation will increase the risks of safety, nuclear proliferation and nuclear security.

Distinguished Delegates

URT Government wishes to emphasize on nonproliferation issues during this conference discussions. This will focus on actions against illegal trafficking and smuggling on nuclear materials, nuclear parts and technological know-how in line with effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which requires member states to take measures against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means , and related materials. Global improvement of nuclear safety necessitates defining nuclear safety standards to which all countries that exploit, develop, or consider developing nuclear power, fully subscribe.

Distinguished Delegates

In addition to lessons learned and measures to mitigate consequences and prevent nuclear accidents, the issue of protection of people and environment from ionizing radiation is also of paramount importance since accident anywhere could mean accident everywhere. There is a need for enhanced International collaboration to strengthen emergency preparedness and response further enhances transparency.

Distinguished Delegates

Once again I would like to reiterate my sincere appreciation for the efforts made by International community in ensuring nuclear safety and security. I believe, the outcome of this meeting and the side events will add value to the actions plan on nuclear safety reviews.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION