

**Opening Remarks at
Senior Regulators' Meeting
25 September 2014**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very pleased to welcome you all to this Senior Regulators' Meeting.

I understand that this is your 30th anniversary meeting, so congratulations!

These events are a valuable opportunity for nuclear regulators from around the world to share information and experience and discuss major regulatory, policy and technical issues in nuclear safety and security.

Strong and independent regulators, operating under a robust legal framework, are vital for ensuring a high level of nuclear safety and nuclear security. They need to have adequate financial resources and well-trained staff.

Safety measures and security measures have a common aim: to protect human life and health, and the environment. In many countries, the same regulator is responsible for nuclear safety and nuclear security.

But this is not always the case, so it is important that there is good communication between officials responsible for each area. Both safety and security at a facility can be enhanced if interfaces between the two types of measures are properly understood and managed.

The accident at Fukushima Daiichi has overshadowed the work of many of us for the past three and a half years.

I am confident that the necessary lessons are being learned, and acted upon, all over the world. I have seen concrete improvements in safety features at every nuclear power plant I have visited since the accident.

However, as I told the General Conference on Monday, nuclear safety is not simply about guarding against severe natural hazards.

In the coming years, we have to look at safety aspects in relation to other important matters, including decommissioning old facilities, extending the operating life of existing nuclear power plants, disposing of high level radioactive waste, and developing innovative technologies such as fast reactors and new small and medium-sized reactors.

Improving nuclear safety is an issue that will never cease to require our attention and regulators play an essential role.

While nuclear safety and security are primarily the responsibility of individual countries, the Agency has a vital role to play in ensuring international cooperation.

I encourage all countries to make full use of the services which we offer, especially our *Integrated Regulatory Review Service* missions. These have proven of great benefit, both to the countries in which we have conducted them, and to the wider world with which valuable lessons are shared.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have an interesting agenda for these two days, starting with a thorough examination of the concept of defence in depth, and then moving to regulatory needs and challenges in nuclear security.

I welcome the chairpersons for this meeting: Mr Pierre Franck Chevet, President of the French Nuclear Safety Authority, and Mr Raoul Awad, who is

Director General of the Security and Safeguards Directorate at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

I wish you a successful meeting and look forward to learning about the outcomes.

Thank you.