

Information Circular

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Communication dated 26 September 2011 received from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agency regarding the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, (New York on 22 September 2011)

The Secretariat has received a communication dated 26 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agency enclosing the statement by HE Dr Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security, which took place in New York on 22 September 2011.

As requested by the Permanent Mission, the statement is circulated herewith for information.

Islamic Republic of
I R A N
Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security

(New York, 22 September, 2011)

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Distinguished Co-Chairs;

I thank the Secretary-General for convening this meeting.

I renew our solidarity with Japan concerning the losses resulting from earthquake and tsunami and Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident.

I associate myself with the statement made by honorable Foreign Minister of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

It is an honor for me as an academic and nuclear scientist and former head of Nuclear Energy Organization and current Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to address this High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security.

Iran, with a plan to generate 20000 megawatts of nuclear electricity over the next 20 years, applies the IAEA safety standards and is constantly promoting its relevant national capacities.

We have started the internal legal procedure to accede to the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Iranian Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant has recently gone operational, in which the application of highest safety standards has always been and continue to be our first priority.

The IAEA, after extensive investigation of applied safety measures by Iran, has approved that Bushehr Power Plant enjoys the safety standards analogous to other modern and advanced nuclear power plants worldwide.

We are extremely proud and highly honored that all these measures, like other nuclear activities in my country, has been undertaken by the courageous Iranian young nuclear scientists.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to pay tribute to the soul of those scientists who have been martyred in several terrorist attempts planned and backed by western countries and their satellites.

Although the hearts of those beloved young scientists stopped from beating, but the work they started, including in the nuclear safety field, did not and will never stop, even with all demonic plans and plots, unlawful sanctions and alike.

The weight of nuclear energy, as a clean, viable and environment and climate friendly source, in the energy mix of countries is continuously increasing.

This fact underlines the importance of two subjects: first) the realization of inalienable right of States to peaceful nuclear energy, including developing complete nuclear fuel cycle and generating nuclear power, and second) ensuring the application of highest nuclear safety standards globally.

We underline the role of free and open technical and technological exchange among States in strengthening global nuclear safety and its contribution to safe development and use of nuclear energy, including safe operation of nuclear power plants.

We express serious concern over the continued undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of such items which negatively impact the national capacity of developing countries in the nuclear safety areas.

As the Fukushima accident demonstrated, any deficiency in terms of nuclear safety shall lead to widespread casualties with no proper compensation. As a result, there should be no restrictions of any kind for the transfer of nuclear-safety-related technologies and exchange of information.

In this connection, we call upon developed States to fulfil their particular responsibilities to allow developing countries to participate, without discrimination or politicization and to the fullest extent possible, in the transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and scientific and technological information, including in the nuclear safety field.

Likewise, we call on the IAEA to carry out its statutory responsibility to cooperate fully with Member States on all nuclear-safety-related issues, including by facilitating access, without discrimination of any kind, to the best nuclear safety technology and expertise available globally.

Furthermore, we recall the technical nature of nuclear safety and nuclear security, and while underscoring the central and exclusive role of the IAEA in these areas within the UN System, stress that these technical subjects shall be addressed exclusively within the IAEA. We also warn against and call for the avoidance of any attempt to encroach upon the mandate, competence and central role of the IAEA in the area of nuclear security.

My delegation shares the views expressed by most delegations that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety and nuclear security rests with the individual States.

While supporting the enforcement of nuclear safety standards and promoting nuclear safety culture worldwide, we believe that such measures shall not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny or restrict the inalienable right of developing countries to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Co-Chairs.