



# Statement

By

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Mr. Chairman/ Director General/ distinguished delegates/

Israel strongly supports the IAEA's Director General Initiative/ to convene this high-level conference/ drawing on the lessons from the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plants/ and to raise awareness to high standards of nuclear safety in order to create a new safety culture///

At the outset/ I would like to express Israel's sincere condolences to the Government of Japan and its people/ on the loss of life caused by the massive earthquake and the subsequent Tsunami///

Mr. Chairman/

Israel appreciates the efforts made by the IAEA Director General and his staff/ to work closely with the Government of Japan/// The early visit of the Director General to Japan/ followed by the IAEA team/ have made a significant contribution to the flow of information and crisis assessment/// They were also important in coordinating international assistance and support/// Israel recognizes the central role of the IAEA/ in strengthening the global nuclear safety regime/ and in promoting nuclear safety culture worldwide/ and in providing expertise and advice///

Following the early news from Fukushima/ Israel offered its assistance to Japan/// A national emergency response team/

composed of medical personnel/ as well as radiation monitoring experts/ was dispatched to the affected region/// During its operation/ the Israeli delegation was highly impressed by the resilience and the determination of the local population/ to overcome the terrible consequences of the disaster///

Mr. Chairman/

The Israel Atomic Energy Commission advises its Government on all nuclear matters/ including research and development/ and determining policies and priorities in this domain/// The IAEC is also responsible to implement policies outlined by the Government/ and represents the State of Israel in relevant national and international institutions///

Israel operates two nuclear research reactors/ at the Soreq Nuclear Research Center and at the Negev Nuclear Research Center/// Both reactors are located within a safe distance from populated areas/ and are operated according to high safety standards/ which are compatible with IAEA standards/// Israel allocates appropriate human and material resources/ to maintain and operate its nuclear centers/ by qualified and experienced personnel///

In the draft report of the IAEA fact-finding team to Japan/ the team identified several lessons to be learned/// Among those

lessons/ the importance of national Emergency Response Centers/ with adequate provisions for handling all necessary emergency functions/// Israel has long recognized/ the importance of enhancing these capabilities in its nuclear centers///

Even though Israel considers the risk of leakage or emission of radioactivity/ in its nuclear centers as very low/ it has placed a contingency plan for such an emergency/// Israel also conducts periodic national preparedness exercises in this context///

Mr. Chairman/

The draft report ~~by~~of the IAEA fact finding team states/ inter-  
alia that/ "nuclear regulatory systems should address extreme events adequately/ including their periodic review/ and should ensure/ that regulatory independence and clarity of roles are preserved"/// Israel's two research reactors operate under the supervision of both the IAEC and an independent public Advisory Safety Committee/ which reports directly to the Prime Minister/// Besides/ the Ministry of Environment Protection/ is assigned with the task of conducting routine monitoring of the adjacent environment/// Furthermore/ early this year/ the independent status of Israel's Nuclear Regulatory and Safety Office was approved by the Government/// We believe that the

independence of both the Public Advisory Safety Commission/  
and the Nuclear Regulatory and Safety Office/ conveys to the  
public a message of transparency/ and contributes to public  
confidence///

In line with its policy and practice of maintaining high level  
expertise/ the IAEC is promoting cooperation between its safety  
experts and their colleagues in other countries/ including regular  
participation in the work of the IAEA safety Committees///

Mr. Chairman/

No less important lesson of the nuclear crisis in Fukushima/  
addresses the need for regional and international concerted  
emergency preparedness and response///

Israel respects the aspirations of its neighboring countries/ for  
peaceful nuclear research and energy/// As the consequences of a  
possible nuclear accident cannot be contained within national  
boundaries/ Israel emphasizes the merit of national and regional  
emergency preparedness and response/ including regional  
cooperation/// Israel proposes to study jointly in the region/ the  
lessons learned in Fukushima and to promote such cooperation///

Mr. Chairman/

As part of implementing Israel's nuclear safety and risk reduction policy/ Israel recently completed a project of returning highly enriched uranium spent fuel/ from its Soreq research reactor/ to the US/// The Soreq reactor is fueled by US-origin HEU and operates under IAEA safeguards/// The Government of Israel is appreciative of the support and cooperation of DOE/US in this important project/ which has both safety and nuclear security benefits///

Mr. Chairman/

We must all admit/ that the Fukushima crisis/ has changed public perspectives regarding utilization of nuclear energy/// Israel concurs with the conclusion of the Government of Japan/ in its report that/ "we will be able to overcome this accident by uniting the wisdom and efforts of not only Japan/ but also the world"/// The nuclear energy is vital as ever/ and many states consider nuclear power as a viable option which plays an important part in meeting fast growing energy needs/// We must all raise awareness to safety culture/ and re-evaluate safety measures in our facilities to meet the challenge/// I can assure you that Israel will carefully study the assessment and the lessons of the Fukushima nuclear crisis and act accordingly///

Thank you Mr. Chairman///