

Statement by Amb. J. Enkhsaikhan of Mongolia on agenda item
“Issues related to the Fukushima Daichi accident”

13 September 2011

Vienna

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation joins the previous speakers in expressing its sorrow with an explosion at a nuclear waste site in Marcoule that resulted in loss of life and injury of some of the workers there. We have taken note that the accident was under control within the hour and that no radioactive leaks have been detected.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to thank the Director-General for the reports on the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security held on 20-24 June of this year and on the draft IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Security. I would also like to thank DDG Denis Flory for introducing these reports to the Board.

My delegation believes that holding of a ministerial conference to give a preliminary assessment of the Fukushima accident, to review emergency preparedness and response at the national and international levels, to identify lessons learned and possible future actions was both timely and very useful. As the President of the Conference and the Director-General and have pointed out in the report under consideration, the conference agreed, among others, to strengthen the Agency's Safety Standards, to systematically review safety of all nuclear power plants (NPPs), including the broader use of the peer review mechanism, and strengthen the independence of nuclear regulatory bodies.

Based on the Ministerial Declaration, the Director-General and the Secretariat have undertaken open-ended consultations with member states of the Agency to draw up a draft action plan that we have before us. My delegation believes that the Ministerial Declaration, the Chairpersons' summaries of the three working sessions, together with inputs of members states during the consultations resulted in a solid and comprehensive draft Action plan that defines 12 areas of activities. Though all these areas of action are of equal importance, my delegation would like to specifically underline the importance of strengthening of IAEA peer reviews, the effectiveness of national regulatory bodies, including wider use of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), improving the effectiveness of the international legal framework and strengthening of capacity building. Bearing in mind that many countries are developing their own nuclear power programme, the draft Action plan would rightly promote creation of nuclear infrastructure based on the Agency's Safety Standards and other relevant guidance for such member states. These states are expected to voluntarily host Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Reviews (INIR) and relevant peer review missions, including site and design safety reviews, prior to commissioning the first nuclear power plant. It is to be hoped that the newcomers would abide by such understanding and undertaking.

With these comments my delegation supports the approval of the Action Plan and to recommend to the General Conference to endorse the Board's decision.