On behalf of the Government and the people of Canada, I would like to thank the Secretary General for convening this meeting on nuclear safety and for conducting a system-wide review across all organizations of the United Nations on the implications of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Nuclear power can be safe and play a vital, reliable and emissions-free role in the energy mix, as it has in Canada for 40 years.

The Fukushima accident is a wake-up call against complacency. Not just for governments, but the public too.

After the Fukushima accident, Canadians sought assurances about the safety of our nuclear installations.

We ordered safety reviews of our CANDU nuclear power plants and our nuclear regulator has lessons learned processes well underway.

Thankfully, nuclear incidents like the one at Fukushima are very rare. But Fukushima reminds us that even the POTENTIAL impacts, if something goes wrong, can be far-reaching.

In the immediate aftermath, Canada provided humanitarian and technical assistance to Japan. We also sent experts to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to assist its coordinated response.

Just as quickly, consensus emerged internationally that, in the words of the Leaders’ Declaration from the Deauville G-8 Summit, “there is a continuing need to re-evaluate safety and we recognise the importance of learning from the Fukushima accident and its aftermath.” Today’s meeting builds on that Deauville commitment.

So, too, does work being undertaken by the IAEA - the UNs nuclear watchdog and the world's primary forum for nuclear energy considerations, including safety.


It will have to be continuously reviewed and updated to be effective. Its implementation is key to ensuring public safety and public trust. Canada encourages the IAEA to provide more information about nuclear safety in its annual reporting to the United Nations General Assembly.
Mr. Secretary General, I am happy to report that Canada is actively working with our partners to implement the Nuclear Security Summit commitments, agreed to in 2010 in Washington. As we move towards the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, we are furthering collective international efforts in key areas related to nuclear security such as protecting nuclear facilities, preventing illicit nuclear trafficking and securing radiological sources.

The international impact of the Fukushima nuclear accident demonstrates that nuclear safety, nuclear security and non-proliferation are all critical considerations for the world to be able to safely harness nuclear energy’s immense potential.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm Canada’s strong commitment to work together, collectively, to uphold the mission we share of a world of ensuring that nuclear power for peaceful purposes is safe and secure.

Thank you.