Statement by

H. E. Pál SCHMITT,
President of the Republic of Hungary

at the High-level meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security

New York, 22 September, 2011
Mr Secretary-General,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express the appreciation of my country for the prompt reaction of the Secretary General to all aspects of the Fukushima nuclear accident that once again proved that disasters with a global impact must immediately mobilize the whole of the international community and in particular the resources and special capabilities of the competent international organizations.

In the light of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant this High-Level Meeting provides an excellent opportunity to concentrate our efforts on the issue of improving nuclear safety and security. This meeting shows the importance of the role of the UN system in the effective management of cross-boundary events that often affect multiple scientific disciplines. Today’s meeting is a testimony of the international community’s ability to react and learn together and in close cooperation with each other.

We commend the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard. This organization, being primarily responsible for nuclear related issues, has shown great support to its Member States during and in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident. In light of the serious consequences of the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011, the international community has started a series of global discussions on how to strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection of people and the environment worldwide. Hungary believes that the United Nations, and in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has a fundamental role in facilitating this process of global learning and acting upon lessons learnt. We believe that cooperation and coordination among international organizations needs to be strengthened more than ever so that their capacities to adequately react to similar emergency events in the future is reinforced.

Mr. Secretary General,

The IAEA launched a Nuclear Safety Action Plan. While implementing this Action Plan, the whole legal framework regulating nuclear safety will be reviewed. Our intention is to undertake possible measures for strengthening the provisions of the Convention on Nuclear Safety. My country was among the first states engaging in international cooperation in the nuclear field. The International Atomic Energy Agency organises several meetings in Hungary and
invites Hungarian experts to assist in peer reviews in other countries. These peer reviews of the IAEA conducted in Hungary are a key element that reaffirms our commitment to the continuous improvement of nuclear safety.

(Thank you for your attention.)