Introductory Remarks
by
H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-Hwan
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at
the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security
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New York
Distinguished Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to discuss ways to strengthen and improve international cooperation on nuclear safety in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan last March.

This meeting follows a series of global debates that were held on this pressing issue, including the April Kiev Summit on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident and the June IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. France has also made valuable contributions as Chair of the G8 Summit, such as by hosting the Ministerial Seminar on Nuclear Safety last June, which Minister Kosicuisko-Morizet herself organized.

Nuclear Safety

Among the outcomes of these initiatives, I would particularly like to draw attention to the IAEA Action Plan which builds upon the IAEA Ministerial Conference in June. I welcome this joint effort by the IAEA and Member States as a significant step and look forward to its effective implementation.

Another area that requires our attention is the legal component of the nuclear safety framework. Further efforts should be made to promote universal adherence to relevant international instruments such as the ‘Convention on Nuclear Safety’ and the ‘Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.’

As the keynote speakers in the earlier Opening Plenary have repeatedly emphasized, ensuring nuclear safety is a task which merits our utmost wisdom and joint efforts. I am confident that we will gain from this meeting insightful ideas and proposals which will help boost global nuclear safety.
Emergency Response

In addition to promoting the highest level of nuclear safety, we must be mindful of the need to effectively prevent and respond to nuclear disasters. As nuclear accidents respect no borders and the impact on both human health and the environment lasts for generations, it requires us to strengthen our collective capabilities to mitigate the damage. We may explore ways to encourage the prompt and accurate sharing of information so that relevant cooperative arrangements can function effectively in the case of an actual disaster.

Nuclear Security

Another topic that may be addressed together with nuclear safety and disaster risk preparedness is nuclear security. While nuclear safety and security are two distinct issues, measures to strengthen one can help to strengthen the other; they are also indispensable prerequisites for the use of nuclear energy. The 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit should serve as another opportune forum to engage in more in-depth discussions on the nexus between nuclear safety and security.

To this end, I hope to hear your views on ways to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, at the same time, maximize nuclear safety and security.

I look forward to your active participation.