

*“India’s Statement at the Diplomatic Conference to consider
the Swiss Confederation’s Proposal for Amendment to Article
– 18 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety*

The Indian Delegation congratulates your excellency Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi on your election as the President of this Conference and assures the fullest cooperation and support for successful outcome of the Conference. Mr. President, we would also like to compliment you for successful conduct of the Informal consultations over past several weeks for building a consensus on the issue of enhancing nuclear safety globally through improvements in the implementation of CNS.

Mr. President,

As a country pursuing use of nuclear energy for the welfare of its people, India is committed to highest levels of nuclear safety. India follows a programme that provides for identifying and implementing safety upgrades based on periodic safety review of its nuclear installations considering the current safety standards and practices. We have also been carrying out special safety review of the nuclear installations subsequent to major events (national and international). These have helped India in implementing a number of safety upgrades in the existing NPPs. The lessons learned from the major events are also used in enhancing the safety requirements for the new NPPs.

The safety assessments conducted after the Fukushima accident have shown that adequate level of defence against external events were already available for the nuclear installations in India. The safety enhancements being implemented subsequent to this assessment are to further strengthen the defences against the extreme events exceeding the design bases as well as for mitigation of severe accidents. India has also taken steps to incorporate the lessons from the Fukushima accident into its regulatory requirements. The new Codes issued recently by the regulatory body, for ‘Siting of Nuclear Facilities’ and ‘Design of LWR based NPPs’ incorporate the requirements arising out of lessons learned from the Fukushima accident. These steps have been in the direction of fulfilling the objectives identified in the observations made in para 17 of the summary report of the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting of the CNS, relating to preventing accidents and, should an accident occur, mitigating its effects and avoiding off-site contamination. Indian National

Report to the 6th review meeting of CNS gave the details of the post Fukushima safety enhancements that were being implemented in its nuclear installations.

Mr. President,

In the context of the proposal for amendment to the Convention, Indian Delegation has been of the view that the steps taken by the Contracting Parties during the 6th Review Meeting for (a) enhancing the reporting by the contracting parties on the implementation of measures to avoid long-term off-site contamination, (b) enhancing the CNS review process and (c) asking IAEA to develop the technical requirements to be implemented in design to achieve the objectives of “no large radioactivity releases” and “no long-term off-site contamination”, would meet the objectives brought by the 2nd Extraordinary meeting of CNS. We always believed that the CNS processes have enough in-built mechanisms to keep the Convention up to date and contemporary without necessarily going in to any new legally binding instruments. The way the consensus is now building on the Vienna Declaration in the same spirit, has vindicated our point of view and is a good step in the direction of enhancing nuclear safety globally through improvements in the implementation of CNS.

Mr. President,

India has always been of the view that the global response to the questions on nuclear safety should come on the basis of consensus. The issue of nuclear safety has always been special and even though convening of such a Diplomatic Conference should not become a precedent for other subject areas, we will be particularly satisfied if the process culminates in to a consensus document which we have been supporting right from the beginning.

Mr. President,

In the end we want to complement the hard work put in by the participants of the Informal Working Group (IWG) from all the Contracting Parties under the able leadership of your excellency towards building this consensus.