**IAEA Board of Governors**

**10 June 2015**

**Agenda Item 6: *Report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident***

Thank you Madam Chair.

Australia welcomes the report of the Director General on *The Fukushima Daiichi Accident* in document GOV/2015/26. We also thank DDG Flory for his introductory remarks. Our delegation also appreciates the efforts of the hundreds of experts from Member States, Secretariat, and other international organisations for their contribution to this report. Without their expertise, dedication and tireless efforts, this report would not have been possible.

Madam Chair,

The report before us today represents an important step in the international community’s response to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. The events at the power plant following the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011 presented the single greatest challenge to nuclear safety in a quarter of century, both in terms of the immediate response to the accident, but also in how the industry has learnt from the accident to further reduce the likelihood of major accidents. This comprehensive report, along with its five detailed technical volumes, will undoubtedly help in this regard.

While our delegation has read the Director General’s report, we are still undertaking a detailed analysis of its recommendations and we will not make technical comments at this stage. However, our preliminary assessment is that the report presented to the Board appears to be a thorough, objective and factual analysis of the causes and consequences of, and lessons learnt from, the accident. We note that the assessment of the radiological impact of the accident correlates closely with that of the 2013 report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR).

Importantly, the observations made in the report remind us that while there are comprehensive systems and processes to achieve nuclear safety globally, we cannot become complacent in their application. Indeed, we see the lessons identified by the report as a significant contribution towards, and a basis for Member States to achieve, continuous improvement in nuclear safety. Ultimately, the impact of the Director General’s report will be measured by the actions that Member States take to minimise the risk of accidents and improve the capacity to respond to them.

While time is needed to reflect on the report itself, its recommendations must ultimately be “normalised” by the Agency and its Member States. The impending incorporation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety into the Agency’s normal programme of work presents a timely opportunity for such a process.

Madam Chair,

This is not the end of the IAEA’s work on the causes, consequences and lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident. The situation on the ground in Fukushima will require careful management and analysis for many years, and we expect that the IAEA will continue to play a significant role in that process. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its transparent and objective reporting into the accident. As an immediate step in this direction, we encourage the early release of the report, including its five technical volumes, to the public on the IAEA website.

With these comments, the Australian delegation takes note of the Director General’s report on the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident.

Thank you, Madam Chair.