

Distinguished Minister, Governor Kovacs, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure today for me to say some words at the opening of this exhibition on Paks nuclear power plant.

You might wonder why, as Head of the IAEA Department for nuclear safety and security, I am here today at this opening? It is true that quite often I am asked how we can reconcile the terms of the statute of the IAEA: promoting nuclear energy and ensuring safety. The answer is that, for those States that decide to use or develop the use of nuclear energy, our job in the Agency is to help them do it in a safe, secure and sustainable way, for the protection of the public, society and the environment against the risks of radioactivity. Our mandate and dedication is to develop and make available standards and guides whose

implementation will allow considering accidents as a remote possibility.

And you will see by yourselves that this exhibition features many aspects relevant to the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and particularly of my Department.

Operation of PAKS NPP

Indeed, the Paks NPP is a regular "customer" of our peer review services. These are major tools for providing an objective view on the implementation of the IAEA Safety Standards. They are a major feature in the Action Plan for Nuclear Safety unanimously adopted last September by the General Conference.

The memories of my Department tell me that already in the early nineties, several seismic reviews were performed on the site; two Operational Safety Review teams (OSART) and a follow up mission have been conducted.

The safety of long term operation has also been the subject of several reviews along the years. Our Fundamental safety principles state that the prime responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the operator. This is exactly this responsibility that we have been and are supporting along the years through these missions.

These recollections would not be complete if I did not mention also the tight work performed with the **Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority**, who supports peer reviews by providing Experts, and by inviting Regulatory Review Services – again a very strong expectation from Member States in the frame of the IAEA Action Plan for Nuclear Safety.

Transparency,

Again, this is a key requirement of the IAEA Action Plan for Nuclear Safety. Particularly after the Accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP,

the acceptance of nuclear power necessitates first to strengthen nuclear safety, then, confidence of the public comes as a “collateral benefit” through transparently demonstrating the effectiveness of concrete actions taken.

This exhibition is indeed a component of the transparency showed by the Hungarian Government in the field of nuclear energy.

But I should refrain from making a scientific, Cartesian, (French!) demonstration of the strong partnership between Hungary and the Agency in nuclear safety for nuclear energy, and let you enjoy this exhibition.

Thank you.