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**Name of Event: [Roundtable] Strengthening National and International Preparedness for Nuclear and Technological Emergencies**
**Date of Event: May 10, 2011**
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**Panellists:**

- H.E. BAN Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary-General
- Mr. Rashid Khalikov, Director OCHA Geneva (Chair)
- Mr. Yuri Brazhnikov, Director of the International Cooperation Department, Head of Russian National Emergency Response Corps, Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies & Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, Russian Federation
- Mr. Laurent Michel, Director General for Risk Reduction, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, France
- Mr. Kenichi Suganuma, Ambassadorial Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan, Chief of Consulate of Japan in Geneva
- Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization
- Ms. Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary-General, World Health Organization
- Ms. Elena Buglova, Acting Centre Head, Incident and Emergency Centre, International Atomic Energy Association
- Dr. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and Environment, World Health Organization
- Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Reduction

**1) Outline**

The United Nations Secretary-General, BAN Ki-moon pointed out the need to ensure that nuclear reactors and other industrial facilities should withstand multiple hazards in what he called "*the new nexus between natural disasters and nuclear safety*". He provided the context in which this rethinking takes place, including the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear emergency and the ongoing Fukushima nuclear emergency in Japan. The Secretary-General referred to his five-point strategy on nuclear safety that would balance the benefits of nuclear energy with the need for

safety of the world's population. The roundtable outcomes will feed into a UN-system wide study on the implications of the Fukushima nuclear emergency, an IAEA Ministerial Conference in June, and will culminate in a High-Level meeting on 22 September in New York. In 2012, the second nuclear summit meeting would be taking place in South Korea. He asked the panel to discuss how coherence and knowledge-sharing among national, regional and international disaster management plans can be ensured, how specialized knowledge can be better integrated with broader preparedness planning, and how can we most effectively ensure that public messages are communicated in a credible and authoritative manner.

## 2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- There was consensus that a **whole-of-society approach** to resilience and disaster management needs to be adopted, involving local, national, regional and international stakeholders, as well as the private sector especially as owners and managers of crucial facilities.

- The need to **consolidate the highly specialized singular response and monitoring systems** was pointed out and to avoid duplication. The early warning and preparedness systems already at our disposal will be even more effective when reflecting a truly multi-hazard and integrated approach, which ought to include the nuclear risk.

- A **multi-hazard approach for preparedness** should be adopted, and technological disasters need to be factored in also with their potential secondary effects of natural disasters.

- As a response to the accumulation of global risk, measures need to be taken to improve safety and investments should be geared towards reducing risks in the society. This includes **making safe energy choices and assessing risks for existing nuclear and industrial facilities** including natural and human-induced risks. More predictable funding for preparedness and prevention will need to be established.

- The need to **provide timely and accurate information** to potentially affected populations and to prepare for such communications, together with the private sector, the media and other stakeholders, was stressed.

## 3) Conclusions

- The international community should urgently strive to work together in the most effective and efficient way to ensure the reduction of risk of technological

breakdowns, including nuclear emergencies, and reduce their impact on lives and livelihoods. Safeguards should be strengthened, as well as the exchange of information, expertise and equipment within the international community. Populations around facilities should be better informed about and prepared for the potential risks they face and Early Warning systems need to be strengthened and interconnected.

- Multi-hazard risk assessments of both natural and human-induced origin need to be undertaken when reviewing existing or establishing new nuclear and industrial plants. The potential impact on the population and environment around these plans needs to be at the core of this process.

- The participants of the roundtable unanimously invited each other to tear down barriers between entities and to 'look over the horizon together'. Efforts to reduce risk from technological disasters need to be complimentary and mutually supportive. There was a call to remain engaged in this ongoing process to improve public safety from and preparedness for technological and nuclear emergencies. Complacency needs to be avoided in order not to miss the window of opportunity that the increased awareness, resources and lessons learnt after the recent disasters provides to improve public safety.