

Dear Excellences, Deputy Director General, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you this afternoon, in the premises of the Vienna Diplomatic Academy, to attend this conference given by Mr. Luc Oursel, President and Chief Executive Officer of AREVA, on the role of nuclear energy and its expected contributions for the future.

The accident that occurred at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station of Tokyo Electric power Company, on March 11 2011, created a deep emotion all around the world, urging some countries to deliberately phase out nuclear energy.

The lessons learned from this accident have unambiguously demonstrated the necessity to continuously reinforce the safety of nuclear power, which is a permanent endeavor. However, two years later, we can assure that great efforts have been undertaken in various fields and as stated by the IAEA's Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano: *"Nuclear power is safer than it was". "Now we have to keep up the momentum. Complacency can kill."*

The global demand of energy has steadily increased for more than 20 years, and this situation will prevail in the coming decades, particularly in emerging economies. In this context, promoting responsible growth will be a key issue for governments, while preserving the environment.

Nuclear energy, as shown by the IAEA's projections and as Mr. Luc Oursel will illustrate it in a few minutes, will undoubtedly continue to bring a major contribution to the energy mix in many countries, provided that the highest levels of safety, security and non-proliferation become the basis of all nuclear power programmes...

Let me now introduce our guest speaker to you:

Mr. Luc Oursel graduated from the *École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris*, from which he holds the rank of *Ingénieur en chef des Mines*.

He began his career in 1984 in the French Administration where he held several positions in the energy sector and, in 1991, he joined the cabinet of the French Minister of Defense as Technical Advisor for industrial affairs, armament programs and research, a position he held for two years.

Prior to joining the AREVA group, Mr. Luc Oursel held various top level positions in large industrial companies, such as:

- The Schneider Electric Group where he served as CEO of Schneider Shanghai Industrial Control. He went on to become President and CEO of Schneider Electric Italia in 1998 and Industrial Director of Schneider Electric Group in 2001;
- Sidel, a liquid food packaging company, where he started out as Senior Executive Vice President in 2002;
- He went on to head the international subsidiaries division of transportation and logistics giant Geodis before being named Executive Vice President of the group in 2006.

Mr. Luc Oursel joined the AREVA group in 2007 as President and CEO of AREVA Nuclear Power and a member of the Executive Committee and Nuclear Executive Committee of AREVA. He was appointed President and CEO of AREVA by the Supervisory Board on June 30, 2011.

Luc Oursel is also President of the French National Association for Research and Technology (ANRT), President of the French Nuclear Energy Society (SFEN), President of the Georges Besse Foundation and Member of the French Nuclear Energy Committee.

Mr Oursel, the floor is yours...