

Opening Comments to IC-7 by Prof. Osamu Motojima, Director-General of the ITER Organization

Good Morning, Ladies, Gentlemen, Colleagues,

It is a great moment for me to address you at the opening of the seventh ITER Council meeting, for the first time as the Director-General of the ITER Organization. I would like to reiterate my gratitude for this honour, and also for the great responsibility bestowed upon me just as ITER is entering its Construction Phase.

I also thank all the Heads of Delegation for their opening remarks; these show just how deep their engagement is to the development of our project as well as how crucial their timely support is. Such engagement and support are truly important for the progress and success of the project, and all the more so in this critical period in which we need to mobilize all our efforts to keep momentum of the ITER project. The construction activities are now really getting underway.

Since the sixth meeting of the ITER Council in June, and the Extraordinary IC Meeting in July, which made the landmark decision on the ITER Baseline, opening the path to a new era for the ITER project, the ITER Organization has focused its efforts on implementing both the Baseline and the new IO management structure.

Concerning the Baseline, the IO's top priority is to continue to avoid any slippage in the schedule and to optimize delivery of the design and of the components in six priority areas, i.e. magnet coil feeder, cryostat, vacuum vessel, central solenoid, TF coils and PF coils, and so on.

We are also committed to the ambitious cost containment actions of the IO and DA activities. These will need to be reflected in the Work Breakdown Structure as soon as possible. In response to the budget cap of 4700 kIUA set by the IC-Ex, they cannot be realized without strong collaboration and a good team spirit between the ITER Organization and the Domestic Agencies. I take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues in the Domestic Agencies and the ITER Organization for the tremendous efforts they are already making.

Short-term and long-term savings have already been identified concerning expenses generated by the IO and concerning the cost of the in-kind investments. We are doing our utmost to find every opportunity to reduce our expenditure and to allocate funds correctly in order to maintain the schedule.

Regarding the management structure agreed at the IC-Ex, I will report on the progress made in the implementation of the new management structure selecting each member of staff based on their excellence and professionalism, and on the necessary adjustments needed to finalize it. Through this effort, we will execute adequate measures to improve transparency in the operation of the project, and seek a more strategic approach to budgeting and planning.

Finally, as you will later observe at the Foundation Stone Ceremony, important progress is being made in construction activities on the ITER work site; this demonstrates the commitment to achieving First Plasma in November 2019. I also thank European Union for their strong contribution in this important activity.

Now I sincerely hope to apology you and ask your kind understanding that our documents were not timely sent you before IC-7, since it is my first experience ant took longer time to brush up them, especially about the results of cost containment efforts and IO management change.

I hope that the seventh meeting of the ITER Council will be another landmark in the history of the ITER project.

Thank you very much.