



COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION AND TERRORISM

August 25, 2009

The Honorable Yukiya Amano
Director General Designate, International Atomic Energy Agency
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kasumigasehi 2-2-1
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo 100-8919
Japan

Dear Ambassador Amano:

We are writing as chairman and vice chairman of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism to offer our congratulations on your recent election as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

As you are well aware, the United States has been a strong supporter of the IAEA since its inception as a means to ensure that atomic power is used for peaceful purposes. Today, the IAEA's mission is more important than ever.

The U.S. Congress created the Commission to assess the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, to review U.S. activities, initiatives, and programs, and to offer recommendations on how to improve U.S. and international security. In December 2008, we published our report, *World at Risk*. Its chief finding was that unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013. In light of this conclusion, Congress extended the mandate of the Commission to generate action on our recommendations.

We visited the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna in August 2008, and met with several senior officials, to include the Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Management; Director and Head of Verification and Security Policy Coordination; Director, Office of Nuclear Security, and officials from the Department of Safeguards and Office of Legal Affairs. We left these meetings convinced of the urgent need to strengthen the IAEA, both in terms of its authority and its budget.

