

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

Finally, as you will later observe at the Foundation Stone Ceremony, important progress