



European Union

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions,

Vienna, 5 December 2016

Statement

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States and we would like to share with you the European Union's perspective on the importance of nuclear security. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey§, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.
2. At the outset, let me first commend IAEA DG Amano for convening this Conference, to which the EU is pleased to act as a "co-operating organisation". We are confident that this event, similarly to the 2013 Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, will make important contributions to global nuclear security. We consider that strengthening nuclear security highly contributes to ensuring the protection of people and the environment and that nuclear security remains a crucial element in facilitating international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The purpose of this Conference is not only to review what has been done so far, but also to consider medium and long-term objectives and priorities for international nuclear security efforts and a thorough discussion on how current approaches may evolve to address these and meet future challenges.

§ Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland is a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

- 3 Nuclear security is a longstanding priority, and we reaffirm that the responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State, meaning to establish appropriate systems and to take necessary measures to prevent, detect and respond to unauthorized access to nuclear and other radioactive material and nuclear facilities, measures to protect them from sabotage, as well as measures to protect sensitive nuclear knowledge and information.
- 4 The EU and its Member States strongly support the central role of the IAEA in the global nuclear security framework as widely recognized by international initiatives which have contributed to strengthening nuclear security, including the Nuclear Security Summits, and we commend the IAEA Secretariat for its work in this important area.
- 5 The international community is facing a number of challenges. National and international nuclear security measures must be in place to secure nuclear and other radioactive material and nuclear facilities and prevent illicit nuclear and radiological trafficking and nuclear and radiological terrorism. We look forward to enhancing our cooperation with the IAEA, the UN, Interpol and Europol in this process. The EU welcomes the establishment of an informal Nuclear Security Contact Group, aiming to facilitate cooperation and sustain activity on nuclear security. The EU subscribes to the goals set out in its Statement of Principles and wishes to contribute to its work.
- 6 Furthermore, the IAEA's Nuclear Security Advisory services are essential tools to assist Member States in evaluating and strengthening their national nuclear security regimes. In this regard, the EU welcomes the increased recognition and use of the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) and encourages all IAEA Member States to make further use of these important missions, to participate in and share lessons learned.
- 7 We encourage the Secretariat to further build on the advice of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee on the approaches and strategy for establishing the nuclear security series guidance.
- 8 The entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities (CPPNM), to which all EU Member States, as well as the EURATOM Community, are Parties, is a milestone and we commend the Agency for all efforts undertaken to promote it,

including the assistance provided to countries with a view to supporting adherence to this instrument. The entry into force should be adequately reflected in the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan and in the future activities of the Agency. As a priority, we will now focus our efforts on the effective implementation of our obligations under the CPPNM and its Amendment and on the universalization of the Amendment.

Mr. President,

- 9 The EU and its Member States underline the need for reliable and sufficient resources for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities. The EU, together with its Member States, are among the main contributors to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. €40 million from EU funds and another 45 million from EU Member States were thus far contributed to the Fund. This has enabled IAEA support to around 100 countries on four continents. EU Member States are in the process of agreeing to further sustaining this work with another €9 million to be provided through a follow-up European Council Decision. The main objectives of the EU-IAEA partnership are: to help states to strengthen their legislative and regulatory infrastructure and to assist them in putting in place proper nuclear security measures for nuclear and radioactive material. In addition, there are dedicated EU support programmes for third countries to enhance their nuclear security standards. This is also done through the establishment of regional EU Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence to provide for training and best practice in the area of CBRN risk mitigation and response.

- 10 UN Security Council Resolution 1540 is the first international instrument to prevent non-State actors from obtaining access to weapons of mass destruction in a comprehensive manner. We welcome the cooperation between the IAEA and the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts on strengthening nuclear security and expect that this interaction would improve complementarity, reduce duplication and be enhanced as a result of the comprehensive review of Resolution 1540.

Mr. President,

11 To conclude, the EU welcomes the outcome document of the Ministerial Segment, which will guide us in our joint endeavour to achieve an effective global nuclear security framework.

Thank you Mr. President