

# **STATEMENT**

**by**

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**Head**

**Israel Atomic Energy Committee**

**IAEA International Conference on Nuclear**

**Security:**

**Commitments and Actions**

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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Thank you Mr. President.

On behalf of the Government of Israel, I wish to convey my appreciation to the IAEA for hosting this important Conference, and for assuming a leading position in the promotion of nuclear security.

I am fully confident that this event will succeed in providing continuity and momentum to the global effort for strengthening international nuclear security, as well as and reducing the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.

I would like to use this opportunity and state loud and clear, once again: **the greatest threat to global peace and security is the acquisition of the world's most dangerous weapons by the world's most dangerous regimes and by terrorist organizations.**

We must constantly bear in mind our collective responsibility to join forces to defeat this threat.

Nuclear terrorism does not stop at national borders. This is a clear case in which deterioration in one state's security has a direct impact on the safety of others.

This is not only a challenge, but also an impetus for increased global and regional cooperation.

From its side, Israel has taken actions to initiate regional cooperation with neighboring countries for the promotion of nuclear security.

During the Nuclear Security Summit Process Israel has joined and supported many gift basket initiatives, including on Counter Nuclear Smuggling.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate Israel's commitment to act jointly with all states in its region for the shared goal of promoting and strengthening nuclear security.

Mr. President,

Israel supports the 2016 NSS Joint Statement on Sustaining Action to Strengthen Global Nuclear Security.

We also joined the Nuclear Security Contact Group, aiming towards facilitating cooperation and engagement on nuclear security, following the conclusion of the NSS process.

A further key aspect of this goal is the development of technologies that make nuclear materials safer, and assist in responding to an incident of nuclear terrorism, should it occur.

Israel, as a country which faces explicit terrorist threats, including the launching of rockets at its civilian population and nuclear research centers, is deeply aware of the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism. We are ready to assist and contribute to any international effort to curtail it.

Our highly developed technology, bilateral collaborations, and active participation in IAEA training and professional programs maintain Israel at the first line of defense against such threat.

On the Bilateral level, we seek and enhance cooperation with partners on relevant programs and initiatives.

Israel has established a national forensics laboratory, which takes part in the global effort to promote the science and applications

of nuclear forensics. This laboratory collaborates with the parties to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

We continue to follow closely IAEA guidance, regarding the security of nuclear facilities, and the protection of materials used in nuclear research and applications.

Israel has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM), and has fulfilled its commitments, including the submission of a report on its national legislative implementation of the Convention, as required by Article 14.

The international community can rest assured that Israel upholds the highest standard of physical protection measures in its nuclear centers, in accordance with international

standards and obligations, as well as national legislation and best practices.

We have also signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

We conduct periodic national preparedness and response exercises, with the participation of international observers and partners.

Our national representatives are regularly engaged in IAEA Incident and Emergency Center exercises.

Moreover, Israel has joined the IAEA Response and Assistance Network as part of its commitment to global and regional collaboration.

We continue to contribute both financially and in kind to the IAEA's Division of Nuclear

Security, including a recent donation of radiation detector systems to IAEA member states.

Mr. President,

This Conference paves the way forward to a more secure and safer global nuclear environment.

We must continue to present options for positive and concerted efforts to ensure this.

I wish us all a successful and fruitful Conference.

Thank you, Mr. President.