

Statement of

H.E. Deputy Prime Minister

and

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan

International Conference on

Nuclear Security: Commitments and

Actions

Vienna

December 5, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important meeting and I'm confident that, under your leadership, we will certainly reach positive and action oriented results. You may count on my delegation's full support and collaboration.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to the IAEA and to the Director General for the excellent organization of this second ministerial meeting. We support holding this meeting regularly to promote high level political commitment, enhance awareness and keep momentum on strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and achieving high standards of nuclear security in all States

Mr. Chairman

Jordan attaches utmost importance to nuclear security in the context of the development of its nuclear energy program, and believes that nuclear security is an important milestone for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and a fundamental element of the global security framework enhancing global efforts to combat nuclear terrorism

Our commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the field of nuclear security is reflected by the personal engagement and effective participation of His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin Al-Hussein in the Nuclear Security Summits. During these summits, including the very last one held in Washington earlier this year, His Majesty presented to the summit a statement of Activity and Cooperation on Countering Nuclear Smuggling.

The statement that enjoyed a wide support by participating states focused, among other things; on strengthening bilateral, multilateral, and international cooperation. Most importantly, the statement highlighted the role of the IAEA in the context of information sharing on incidents involving nuclear and radioactive material out of regulatory control through the IAEA's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB). In this context, member states should consider creating a broad, well-funded, information clearing-house beyond the ITDB, wherein the transmission of sensitive information would be virtually instantaneous.

Building on this momentum, Jordan established one of the first counter nuclear smuggling teams in the world and is considering the possibility of establishing a body for nuclear safety and security with the aim of integrating all concerned security, civil and governmental agencies under one umbrella.

We are investing so much time and effort because we recognize the extent to which the threat of nuclear material "on the loose" affects the national security of every country, whether or not a country enjoys the benefits of nuclear energy. All of us must therefore do everything, within our ability, to

prevent the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive material into, across, or out of our respective countries.

Jordan has also created a robust trilateral partnership among military/security, government and civil academic society in the context of building its own home grown nuclear security capability. The EU's CBRN¹ Centers of Excellence initiative is, for example, housed by the Middle East Scientific Institute for Security (MESIS), a Jordanian scientific and non-governmental entity.

The same center was tasked to work jointly with an inter-agency team with the aim of developing a human trustworthiness program for Jordan Research and Training Reactor. The purpose was to develop legislation, guidelines, and security related program for nuclear facilities that could be implemented nationwide.

Mr. Chairperson,

The IAEA has the essential responsibility in developing the international nuclear security architecture and providing guidance to member-states. A strengthened role of the IAEA is essential for the continuing delivery of outcomes and actions from the nuclear security conferences and other intergovernmental forums.

¹ Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear.

The IAEA central role should be also complemented by creating synergies with other international organizations like INTERPOL and the United Nations (UN). In this context we encourage the UN, within the scope of its mandate, to continue its positive engagement in strengthening the capacity of states to implement their respective international obligations in accordance with UNSC resolution 1540 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Recognizing the pivotal role of the IAEA in providing assistance in capacity building and advisory services, Jordan was among the first countries to request several peer review missions to develop its national security framework in conformity with the highest international standards.

Finally, we believe that our joint and coordinated effort in the field of nuclear security should also contribute in the advancement of our ambitious agenda of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and access to peaceful use of nuclear energy