



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS PASTĀVĪGĀ PĀRSTĀVNICĪBA ANO, EDSO UN CITĀS
STARPTAUTISKAJĀS ORGANIZĀCIJĀS VĪNĒ
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO THE UN, OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Bahtijors Hasans, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Latvia**

**on the occasion of the International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Commitments and Actions,
Vienna, 5 December 2016**

Mr. President,

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement made by Slovakia on behalf of the European Union. I would like to make the following brief remarks in a national capacity.

Latvia welcomes the convening of this Conference by the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano. It is important to retain international momentum and focus on strengthening nuclear security worldwide. Ensuring the highest levels of nuclear security is a global challenge in which the IAEA has the central and coordinating role. Therefore we are confident that this event shall contribute to international cooperation, awareness raising and positive future developments on this significant issue.

Mr. President,

At the outset, Latvia reaffirms the principle that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. In this regard, Latvia attaches utmost importance to the national application of

international norms and guidance to ensure the safety and security of its people and the environment.

Latvia continues to be a strong link, participating in the global and interconnected efforts in addressing mutual nuclear security challenges. Therefore, Latvia strongly supports the IAEA in all its activities at strengthening the global nuclear security framework, including developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance, conducting peer reviews and advisory services and supporting Member States' national efforts to strengthen nuclear security infrastructure.

We note that recently Latvia led the process of developing the IAEA Medium Term Strategy 2018-2023 which was prepared through a joint, open and inclusive consultation process among Member States and the Secretariat. The Medium Term Strategy serves as a strategic direction and roadmap for the Secretariat and, *inter alia*, identifies priorities on improving nuclear safety and security. For the first time, the MTS contains a vision on the operating environment of the Agency in the period covered by it. Therein, it is recognized that in an increasingly globalized world, with constantly growing nuclear trade and cooperation, physical protection is a key element of nuclear security. The Agency has to enhance its technical capabilities to keep abreast of scientific and technical innovations with a view to confronting current and evolving challenges and risks to nuclear security.

Mr. President,

We are confident that this document shall serve in the best interests of Member States.

We note that ensuring the highest appropriate level of nuclear security is a crucial, core component in any nuclear endeavour whether it's solely

national or with an international character, such as implementation of the Agency's technical cooperation projects or construction of Nuclear Power Plants.

National and international cooperation and timely exchange of relevant information is key to addressing the challenges of securing nuclear material and preventing illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism. In this regard, Latvia is looking forward to continue its close cooperation with the IAEA and other relevant international bodies. We also welcome the establishment of the informal Nuclear Security Contact Group.

To conclude, strengthening and improving cooperation in, and the coordination of, international efforts in the field of nuclear security will continue to remain important for the international community.

Therefore, Latvia welcomes the outcome document of the Ministerial Segment which sets the scene for continued efforts to address nuclear security challenges in a global and changing environment.

Thank you.

