

**Statement by H. E. Giedrius Čekuolis,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Lithuania to the International  
Organizations in Vienna  
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions**

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Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address the second International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions. This remarkable event marks great efforts and accomplishments of States in strengthening nuclear security and achieving distinctive progress in the security of nuclear or other radioactive materials and associated facilities, promoting universalization of international legal instruments and development of the global nuclear security culture.

This Conference offers an opportune global platform upon which we can evaluate progress made in strengthening nuclear security. It also provides ample room for review and discussion of future developments. We are convened at this widely inclusive forum of policymakers and experts to formulate and exchange views on international community's experiences, develop understanding of current strategic trends in approaching the nuclear security worldwide and identify farther trajectories. One of the most important tasks of this Conference to generate significant inputs for the preparation of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan for the period of 2018 to 2021.

Lithuania is delighted to have contributed to the Nuclear Security Summit process over the years and remains strongly supportive of its objectives. We recognize unfading interest and need to continue implementing actions to strengthen nuclear security capabilities in various regions of the world to help combating smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials. Over the past several years, a significant number of countries have taken leadership positions on important initiatives to counter nuclear smuggling and they intend to further contribute to this fundamental international undertaking.

In this regard, Lithuania is delighted to host (together with Jordan) on the sidelines of this conference a follow-on discussion on Cooperation to Counter Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear or Other Radioactive Materials. We expect to build on the momentum gained during the 2016 Washington Nuclear Security Summit and facilitate interregional technical exchanges concerning the establishment of training and capacity-building activities in countering nuclear smuggling. Discussion is intended to focus on respective national institutional frameworks and regulations, national and regional nuclear security training activities, nuclear detection procedures and best practices, response to smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive material, and evolution of the international nuclear security community and culture. We find it essential to emphasize the importance of a whole-of-government effort to counter nuclear smuggling by continuously developing a national-level nuclear detection architecture, using reliable and accessible technical equipment, and engaging in a continuous capacity building and training.

Nuclear security is inconceivable in isolation from nuclear safety. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to promote understanding of synergies between security and safety in existing and planned nuclear installations. This objective can only be achieved via strict adherence to the international requirements on nuclear safety and security, as well as through strong commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity and in a spirit of good neighborhood.

Lithuania's national initiative to establish the Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence in 2012 has proven to be successful and sustainable. In accordance with its mandate, the Centre continues to deliver a wide range of training assistance to multiple stakeholders, primarily law enforcement agencies. Core objectives of the Centre include comprehensive and continuous capacity-building and training support to the institutions responsible for detection and response to nuclear security events, sustaining nuclear infrastructure physical protection measures as well as enhancing interagency and international cooperation. Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence has been growing to a regional nuclear security training hub and an exemplary training facility. The Centre is a member of the IAEA Nuclear Security Support Centers Network. In cooperation with the foreign partners, the Centre develops regional cooperation projects aimed at capacity building support to the Eastern Partnership countries. It takes an increasingly active part in the number of projects with the Network and is continuously expanding its international outreach via international expert training programs and other activities. Sustainable nuclear security also calls for national commitments to adhere to the international instruments.

Alongside the IAEA community, we welcome the official entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) in 2016. We remain convinced the CPPNM and its Amendment is a fundamental international undertaking in the area of physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities, hence the entry into force of the Amendment is one of the most important steps in strengthening nuclear security globally.

As a contribution to confidence building at a global level and in order to assess national physical protection regime, Lithuania has officially invited the IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission to be held in 2017. Such international assessment will check our compliance with obligations contained in *the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment*, with the guidance provided in the IAEA Nuclear Security Series documents as well as with best international practices.

Unwavering international nuclear security is essential in eliminating difficult challenges posed by the threat of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction. We are hopeful this Conference will contribute to productive outcomes in this stance. Lithuania remains committed to adding meaningfully to these unremitting international efforts.

I thank you.