

**IAEA NUCLEAR SECURITY CONFERENCE
VIENNA, 5-9 DECEMBER 2016
NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT**

Thank you Mr President.

The potential humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences of terrorists gaining access to nuclear or radioactive materials are so grave, that the New Zealand Government is doing all within its power to minimise the possibility of this nightmare becoming a reality. While New Zealand has little nuclear material, we are very aware of the dangers that could be posed by malevolent misuse of radioactive materials that we use daily for a wide range of medical and industrial purposes.

Since the last Nuclear Security conference in 2013, New Zealand has undertaken a number of actions to enhance the security of nuclear and radioactive material, both domestically and internationally.

In March 2016 New Zealand ratified the two cornerstone nuclear security conventions – the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We are pleased to make this contribution towards comprehensive and robust global nuclear security architecture.

New Zealand has enacted the Radiation Safety Act (2016), which completely overhauled and updated our domestic legislative framework dealing with the safety and security of nuclear and radioactive material. We have also implemented a Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Material.

In 2015 New Zealand hosted our first mission from the International Atomic Energy Agency's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), to review the security of New Zealand's nuclear and radioactive materials. This peer review provided helpful and pragmatic suggestions. We plan to host a follow-up IPPAS mission in 2018, and would like to express our thanks to the Agency for this useful advisory service.

In 2015 and 2016 we hosted ad hoc inspections to verify nuclear material holdings under our new IAEA Small Quantities Protocol. Again, we would like to thank the Agency for this service.

We would also like here to express our thanks for the Nuclear Security Summit process initiated by President Obama, which ended this year. These Summits shone a spotlight on the issue of nuclear security and, by focusing leaders' intense attention, provided the necessary political momentum for future action on these vital issues.

The IAEA has a key role in nuclear security, and we believe it is particularly well-placed to lead and coordinate nuclear security cooperation.

It has been disappointing to note, in the lead-up to this meeting and particularly during the negotiations on the Declaration, the failure on the part of some members to recognise the importance of the widest possible cooperation on nuclear security issues.

We were particularly disappointed by the refusal of some members to allow a specific reference in the Declaration to the 83 per cent of the most dangerous nuclear material, which is in nuclear weapons programmes and outside any form of international control or transparency. The security of this material affects us all. Any incident involving nuclear material will

almost inevitably have an effect that will not stop at a single country's borders.

Mr President

We wish to again register New Zealand's deep concern about North Korea's recent actions in its continued launches of ballistic missiles and its conduct of a fifth nuclear explosive test. As our Foreign Minister stated recently, New Zealand strongly condemns North Korea's nuclear tests as a provocative and dangerous challenge to regional security, and a direct defiance of the United Nations Security Council.

New Zealand will continue to work actively with international partners to keep nuclear and radioactive materials secure and out of terrorists' hands.

Since 2013, New Zealand has contributed over NZ\$1.6 million to support international efforts to improve nuclear security and secure radioactive materials. These include contributions to: the International Atomic Energy Agency's Nuclear Security Fund; the World Institute for Nuclear Security's training for workers in the nuclear industry; projects to provide radiation detection equipment at vulnerable borders; radiation detection training; and regional training in securing radioactive sources.

New Zealand views nuclear security as part of our broader long-standing commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. It remains our view that the greatest possible contribution to global nuclear security will be complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

Thank you Mr President.