

Mr. President, Director General...

We are here to take stock of commitments and actions on nuclear security. Although nuclear security remains the fundamental responsibility of states, increased international cooperation is key to maintaining and improving our efforts to address new threats and risks. The IAEA is a cornerstone of the international nuclear security architecture. I would like to commend Director General Amano and his staff for their expertise and dedication. Norway is pleased to support Director General Amano's candidature for a further term.

Under President Obama's leadership nuclear security has been put firmly on the international agenda. The Nuclear Security Summit process (NSS) has shown that collaboration among interested parties can lead to improved nuclear security. We welcome the establishment of an informal Nuclear Security Contact Group to continue this good work.

As a concrete follow-up of our NSS commitments, I would like to announce that we will have our NSS Gift Basket on Minimizing and Eliminating the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Civilian Applications issued as an IAEA Information Circular. Norway will host an international conference in 2018 to review progress on the measures set out in the gift basket. Norway strongly advocates minimizing and eliminating the use and stockpiling of highly enriched uranium (HEU), by converting to non-HEU alternatives. When building new reactors, it is especially important to choose technologies that are not based on HEU. Transferring to non-HEU alternatives will reduce the nuclear-weapons-usable material to a minimum. We should also start looking into ways to minimise the use of HEU in the non-civilian sector, where most of the stocks of HEU are found. The same reasoning applies to stockpiles of separated plutonium. We welcome the information that some states have released on their policies to ensure the security of such material. This is a positive step forward.

The international legal framework is crucial. The entry into force this year of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities (CPPNM) was a milestone. The focus now should be on the universalization of the amendment and the effective implementation of the obligations under the treaty. I would also like to underline the importance of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, with its supplementary guidance document as well as the ICSANT-convention. Norway has signed and ratified all these instruments, and we encourage other states to do the same. Let me add that Norway has also endorsed the early conclusion of negotiations of the proposed Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

The IAEA is indispensable in the development of international security guidance, the coordination of nuclear security activities and the provision of support to member states. With its authority and expertise in the field, the IAEA plays a pivotal role in the nuclear security domain. In order to play this role, however, it needs reliable and sufficient funding to finance expanding nuclear security activities over the Agency's regular budget. We also encourage all member states to contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund.

There are those who claim that the focus on security is an obstacle to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and energy. In Norway's view, the opposite is the case. A robust safety and security regime enables peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The effects of nuclear and radiological terrorism would be global, and we need a universal system for securing nuclear materials that holds all states accountable to a set of common standards and best practices.

International cooperation on nuclear security includes the timely sharing of relevant information. The IAEA's Incident and Trafficking Data Base is an essential tool that facilitates and strengthens information sharing. We encourage all states to make active use of the ITDB.

As technology evolves, so do threats. It is in our common interest to make sure that the IAEA receives the necessary funds and mandates to guide, coordinate and support member states with regard to new and emerging threats, including cyber threats.

Norway has been engaged in nuclear security efforts for many years. We see these efforts as an integral part of our work to promote the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to achieve the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Norway welcomes the Ministerial Declaration as the outcome document of this conference, although we would have preferred a stronger and more forward-looking document. Nuclear security is a global common good that can only be assured through committed international cooperation. We cannot allow a nuclear terrorist attack to happen, as the consequences would be devastating. We must work together and take action to improve nuclear security. This is a responsibility we share.

Thank you.