



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by H.E. Mrs. Irena Majcen, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, at the International Conference on Nuclear Security "Commitments and Actions", Vienna, 5 December 2016

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank the Director General of the IAEA, H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, for convening this important conference. Let me also congratulate the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Yun Byung, for assuming the role of its President.

As a member of the European Union, Slovenia supports the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the Slovak Presidency. In addition, I would like to make several remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by pointing out that Slovenia is a country with an operating nuclear power plant, a research reactor, a central storage facility for institutional waste and more than a thousand of sources of ionizing radiation. We therefore attach equal importance to all three pillars for assuring the long term well-being of people and the environment: safety, security and safeguards. At the same time, we realize that the world today is faced with an increasing number of terrorist attacks and that these are often of a different and innovative type. This means that we all have to continue with our efforts to cope with this serious challenge both on the global and local levels.

On the global level, Slovenia recognizes the central and leading role of the Agency, which provides Member States with various guidance documents on nuclear security, as well as peer reviews, training activities and electronic platforms for exchange of information. We also warmly welcome the recent entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. As a country whose experts were deeply engaged in the process of its preparation, we would like to underline the importance of its full implementation by all the Contracting Parties.

Slovenia is engaged in the global efforts to enhance nuclear security also in other ways. We provide the International Physical Protection Advisory Service with peer reviewers, we send experts to the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee and to nuclear cyber security events, and we contribute to the Incident and Trafficking Database. Slovenian stakeholders have been taking part in the programs organized by the Nuclear Security School in Trieste and we have made available our Nuclear Training Centre in Ljubljana for security-related trainings.

On the local level, several Slovenian ministries are involved in nuclear security matters, which are coordinated by an inter-agency commission. Every year we convene meetings with representatives of the customs, the postal service, airports and other institutions, which

are in the first line of defence against illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials. Members of our police force also conduct regular exercises at the Krško Nuclear Power Plant to improve their preparedness. Two years ago, they even held a successful force-on-force unannounced exercise. On top of that, we are continuously enhancing our national preparedness through regional networking and by cooperating within the European Nuclear Security Regulators Association.

Mr. Chairman,

There is no doubt that computerized systems and digital communications have improved our quality of life. At the same time, however, they have also made us increasingly dependent and vulnerable. Slovenia therefore attaches great importance to the cyber security of nuclear installations. We have even established a group of national experts to coordinate all the stakeholders. The Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration, which is a functionally autonomous body within my Ministry, has also prepared some relevant and necessary changes of the legislation, which will enter into force next year. Moreover, our experts in cyber security are actively participating in a number of IAEA outreach activities around the world. I therefore look forward to the adoption of our Ministerial Declaration later today, also because of its emphasis on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding, I would like to bring your attention to the Resolution on Nuclear and Radiation Safety in the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2013-2023, which also addresses the security domain. It considers the established, sustainable and effective legislative and regulatory framework, including independence of regulatory bodies. As a remarkable point, the resolution includes a reference to International Physical Protection Advisory Service and a commitment to have its international teams invited every ten years. The last such mission took place in our country in 2010 and we plan to invite the next one in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to express my conviction that this Conference will produce tangible results. I believe that the Ministerial Declaration will positively influence our efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide, in particular by building upon good practices. Seeing so many delegates and dedicated nuclear security experts from almost one hundred and forty countries fills me with confidence that our common deliberations today will be transformed into our joint actions tomorrow.

Thank you.

