

**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Action  
Vienna, 5-9 December 2016**

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate Your Excellency Mr. YUN Byung Se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, on your effective leadership of this Second International Conference on Nuclear Security. My delegation welcomes the convening of this Conference, with the participation of a large number of Ministers, and the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

Mr. President,

Nuclear security is an important issue. This Conference provides the forum for Ministers, policy makers, senior officials and nuclear security experts, to discuss the experiences gained and practices adopted in strengthening nuclear security and to enhance understanding of current and evolving threats and challenges. This Conference provides the opportunity for deliberation at a high level on how these challenges may be addressed, and the priorities for international cooperation, to move forward the global nuclear security agenda. We support global and regional initiatives to enhance nuclear security. Further, the outcome of this Conference will also contribute to the development of the Nuclear Security Plan 2018 – 2021, together with the Member States of the IAEA.

Mr. President,

Increasingly more States are opting for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, to promote socio-economic development, achieve national development objectives, for growing energy needs and due to climate change concerns. It is important therefore that resources, expertise, education and training in nuclear technology are provided by the Agency to Member States, at their request.

Measures to strengthen nuclear security must not hinder international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, transfer of such technology or the resources required. Further, such measures must not undermine the established priorities of the technical cooperation programmes of the Agency. To the contrary, they should complement and strengthen safety and safeguard measures. The growing activities in the field of nuclear security must be financed by voluntary contributions in view of the restrictions in the Agency's regular budget.

Mr. President

The use of high activity radioactive sources in the fields of medicine, industry, agriculture, research and education results in considerable amounts of nuclear material in transit and storage. However, measures taken to ensure their safety should be such that they would not constrain the use of radioactive sources for these purposes.

The threat of nuclear terrorism is a serious concern and protecting nuclear material within a State and preventing it from falling into the hands of terrorist groups, or those with malicious intent, is the responsibility of each Sovereign State. Training and capacity building in addition to creating awareness are essential.

We must note however, the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the international nuclear security framework. The Agency provides a variety of

services to help Member States with capacity building to put in place safety measures, respond to risks and to deal with its consequences. It also supports Member States with assistance when hosting Major Public Events. Such assistance to Member States must be developed.

In this context, I wish to acknowledge the training, equipment and expert advice provided by the Department of Nuclear Security of the IAEA for officers of the Customs Department and security officials of Sri Lanka in providing protection to Conference venues and other locations during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Sri Lanka in 2013.

The threat from nuclear terrorism highlights the importance of the physical protection of nuclear material and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment which came into force this year as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We support such initiatives to enhance nuclear security globally.

Thank you, Mr. President

**(Statement delivered by H.E. Mrs. Priyane Wijesekera, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka)**