

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions (5-9 December 2016)

Mr. President,

It is a great pleasure for me to address this second International Conference on Nuclear Security. Allow me to begin by extending our appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to Director General Amano for organizing this important and timely event.

The Conference is an excellent opportunity to review the current status of international nuclear security efforts, existing approaches and emerging trends; exchange views on the future direction and priorities for nuclear security; and promote nuclear security awareness and culture.

Mr. President,

Since the first Conference on Nuclear Security in 2013, many advances were made by IAEA Member States in developing and enhancing nuclear security. However we are still living in a world where, the evolving global threat environment and increasing level of terrorist activities continue to pose serious challenges.

International cooperation towards a sustainable nuclear security architecture capable of addressing credible threats is the single most effective instrument preventing unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear material.

Mr. President,

Strengthening security entails physical protection of all nuclear facilities and materials as well as devising additional measures against the threat of terrorism.

At the International Conference on Nuclear Security held in Vienna in July 2013, we stressed the importance of efforts aimed at securing radioactive substances.

Thanks to additional measures and increased awareness, the potential for the acquisition of nuclear material by terrorist groups and non-state actors has been greatly reduced, even if the risk of nuclear terrorism cannot totally be ruled out. However, more work is needed to build an effective global nuclear security system in order to secure all weapons-usable nuclear material and to strengthen the physical security of radioactive sources.

This Conference will help maintain the political momentum achieved in the field of nuclear security following the Washington Summit and the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM (*Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*).

Turkey has been involved in the Nuclear Security Summit process since its inception. We welcome the new commitments, taken at the Washington Summit, which are aimed at improving the nuclear risk outlook in coming years.

Turkey already finalized the process of ratification of the 2005 Amendment and deposited its instrument of ratification to the IAEA on 8 July 2015.

Mr. President,

As reflected in the 2013 Nuclear Security Communiqué, it is the fundamental responsibility of the states to maintain effective security of all nuclear material.

Turkey has shown strong commitment to the enhancement of nuclear security, both at home as a national responsibility and also in joining in international efforts for effective nuclear security worldwide.

Now that the CPPNM Amendment is in force, we have a stronger legal framework, on the basis of which the risks of nuclear terrorism, smuggling and illicit trafficking in nuclear materials can more effectively be countered.

Already before the ratification of the Amendment, our relevant national regulation had been revised by taking into account its provisions. Furthermore, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (*ICSANT*) is also in force in Turkey. Turkish Penal Code is continually being revised and updated to take into account our international obligations.

Upgrading Turkey's legislative framework to the highest international standards and enhancing its implementation capacity is a continuous process. In its efforts, Turkey constantly enjoys IAEA's valuable assistance. Within this context, we expect to host an IAEA IPPAS mission next year.

IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while not legally binding, contributes to the security of radioactive sources. Turkey implements this Code of Conduct as well as the revised supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

The minimization of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) stocks in civilian applications, where technically and economically feasible, is an important security measure. Accordingly, we repatriated our stocks of HEU research reactor fuel in 2010.

Mr. President,

Ensuring energy security continues to be a major global challenge. As a country at the threshold of its own nuclear energy program, Turkey strongly supports the peaceful use of nuclear energy for all States that are in full compliance with their international obligations.

Mr. President,

Ensuring secure, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable energy is at the core of our development strategies. Therefore we have embarked upon an ambitious nuclear power program. We are determined to pursue it in order to meet Turkey's growing energy needs in a sustainable manner. Our objective is to be able to meet ten percent of our electricity production through nuclear power.

Bilateral cooperation to improve nuclear security also figures prominently in our intergovernmental cooperation agreements for NPP projects. State-of-the-art technologies and up-to-date international standards, including IAEA Safety Series and Security Guidance guide our nuclear activities in Turkey.

Mr. President,

Mindful of the time and by way of conclusion, let me add my voice to those who have commended the Agency for its contribution to nuclear security. The IAEA indeed has a leading role in our endeavours. Its central role in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents and promoting nuclear security culture at national levels has been instrumental. Moreover, the implementation assistance provided to the willing Members States has, according to our records, been most useful. We should strive to provide the Agency with the political support and financial resources it needs to continue to effectively execute its duties. As before, Turkey will continue to cooperate with the Agency and lend the necessary support.

Last but not least, our appreciation goes also to Director-General Amano, under whose able leadership the IAEA has made important strides in discharging its duties in the field of nuclear security. I would like to take this opportunity to express Turkey's support for Director-General Amano, on his bid to be appointed as Director-General for another term.

Thank you.