

**Statement
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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the International Organizations in Vienna**

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Co-Chairs,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you for presiding over the third International Conference on Nuclear Security. I'd also like to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its Director General for hosting this significant conference. My delegation looks forward to engaging constructively and positively in the deliberations throughout the Conference. I am hopeful that the Conference, through the ministerial declaration, will send a strong message to the international community of our collective determination to promote common interests and shared aspirations.

Co-Chairs,

Nuclear security has emerged as an important issue that needs to be addressed by the international community. The spread of information technology, the increase in trans-boundary movements, and the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material have represented a significant challenge to the international nuclear security architecture. In an interconnected world where non-state actors, transnational organized crime groups, and other unauthorized personnel reflected their intention to engage in systemic malicious acts involving nuclear and radioactive material, it has become imperative that the international community comes together to collectively chart a common course of action with political commitment to establish a credible nuclear security architecture.

But despite our shared understanding of these threats and our common will to face those challenges, it is no surprise that several members of the international community have had diverging perspectives as to how nuclear security could be enhanced.

Let me outline five main issues which reflect the views of my delegation:

First:

In our collective efforts to strengthen the nuclear security architecture, and while we strive to ensure that no nuclear and radioactive material are subject to theft, sabotage, and illegal diversion, we must not undermine by any means the inalienable rights of states to develop, produce, and use nuclear energy for peaceful uses, as clearly stipulated in Article IV of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Just as importantly, nuclear security measures should not restrict the uses of nuclear energy for civil applications. The development and use of nuclear science and technology for

peaceful uses, particularly for developing countries, has become a significant necessity for achieving the sustainable development goals. Restrictions on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will undoubtedly, hamper the economic and social development of developing countries.

Second:

Achieving real and concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament is key towards establishing a credible international nuclear security architecture. The continued existence of nuclear weapons, as well nuclear facilities that are not subject to IAEA comprehensive safeguards, significantly undermines international nuclear security efforts. The nuclear security architecture will undoubtedly become reinforced once the world becomes free of such weapons and the materials used in producing them.

Third:

We believe that achieving progress in nuclear security requires a holistic approach that provides for application of nuclear security measures comprehensively on all nuclear materials including those used for military purposes. We are aware that most of the sensitive nuclear materials that could undermine our common nuclear security endeavors are produced for military purposes.

Fourth:

Nuclear security remains the sovereign national responsibility of Member States. It is their responsibility to update their respective national legislations, ensure their nuclear materials, facilities and related activities are appropriately controlled and monitored, and adopt multifaceted counter measures that safeguard nuclear and radioactive material from any potential misuse.

Fifth:

In order to maintain the IAEA's central role in supporting nuclear security worldwide and delivering tangible improvements in this field, it is crucial that Member States reinforce their political and financial support to the IAEA's role in this regard, most importantly by firmly and collectively expressing their readiness to contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund.

Co-Chairs,

Egypt has exhibited sustained political commitment to strengthening nuclear security and contributed to raising its profile on the international level. Egypt supports the role of IAEA International Conferences on Nuclear Security and was actively present in the series of Nuclear Security Summits.

In 2010, Egypt approved landmark legislation regulating all nuclear and radiological activities, facilities, and practices in the country through an independent regulatory authority.

We have voluntarily implemented advanced measures of nuclear security in conformity with the relevant guidance documents provided by the IAEA. Egypt made a political commitment regarding the “Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources” and notified the IAEA of its intention to act in accordance with the “Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources”.

Egypt has also taken practical steps to ensure the highest degree of conformity with IAEA nuclear security guidance. We signed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) with the IAEA in 2014, with a view to improve national nuclear security and since then have engaged in a very active program of cooperation towards this objective, including the upgrading of the physical protection system in Egypt’s two research reactors and other radiological sites, and the establishment of a nuclear security support center (NSSC), which provides technical support and training to national and regional experts alike. Furthermore, Egypt received the International Physical Protection Advisory Services (IPPAS Mission) and INIR Mission, with its nuclear security component. Both Missions recognized the positive developments in the Nuclear Security field in Egypt.

Co-Chairs

In conclusion, Egypt reaffirms that the IAEA, with its technical expertise, is the most qualified organization to tackle issues pertinent to nuclear security and provide assistance to Member States in this regard upon their request. The IAEA should be encouraged to adopt a holistic approach that ensures a sustainable and viable nuclear security framework. With collective will, both regionally and internationally, we can make our world a safer and a more secure place for nuclear technologies.

Thank you.