

**Statement by H. E. Mr Pekka Haavisto  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

**International Conference on Nuclear Security  
Vienna, 10 February 2020**

Excellencies,

Let me begin by thanking the Agency and Director General Grossi for organising this important conference. The high-level presence this morning, and the Ministerial Declaration just adopted, are concrete proof of our shared commitment to “sustain and strengthen” our joint efforts on nuclear security, as called for in the title of the conference.

In addition to the statement by the European Union, allow me to make the following national remarks.

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Since the last ICONS conference, good progress has been made in strengthening nuclear security worldwide. The global consensus on the importance of nuclear security is by now firmly established. The same is true for the central role of the IAEA in promoting it.

Yet our work is far from done. The risks are ever-present, as with terrorism, and continue to evolve, such as those related to information and cyber security.

To address these risks, a comprehensive approach to security is needed. Nuclear security should be seen as an integral part of our overall security efforts. Nuclear safety, security and safeguards are distinct, but mutually reinforcing tasks. We should take advantage of their synergies, and ensure a seamless interface. The less we work in silos, the more we will achieve.

The threats we face know no borders. International cooperation is therefore essential. The IAEA is the central forum for this cooperation. The Agency plays a key role in strengthening the global nuclear security framework and in assisting member states in improving national nuclear security regimes. With an increasing workload, it is essential that the financing of these activities be placed on a firm footing.

Finland is pleased to contribute to IAEA’s nuclear security activities with funding and expertise. In order to ensure sustainability, however, adequate resources will need to be made available from the regular budget.

Other cooperation formats, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism have also proven their worth. Having served as international coordinator of the initiative, we are





more convinced than ever of the value of the type of practical cooperation it promotes. We encourage all countries, not yet members, to join the initiative.

A comprehensive approach, coordination and cooperation are essential also in efforts at the national level. Finland's national strategy for countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats is an example of an integrated approach, involving the entire chain of national actors in efforts to prevent threats and respond to them.

A coordinated government policy increases trust in the system and lessens the need for detailed norms and heavy controls. A culture of cooperation between authorities, industry and the third sector – a whole-of-society approach – generates efficiency and reduces costs.

As a country with an expanding nuclear energy programme and the first country to build a geological repository for spent nuclear fuel, Finland is committed to implementing the highest possible safety, security and safeguards standards. Together with the IAEA and the European Commission, we are currently developing responses to the new and unique safeguards challenges presented by geological disposal.

Excellencies,

In a few weeks, we will be celebrating 50 years since the entry into force of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT is a resounding success by any measure. For five decades, it has served as a solid foundation for all international cooperation on nuclear issues.

Nuclear security is an essential element in facilitating international cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This conference is thus also an important contribution to the upcoming NPT review. Let us work together to make it the success it deserves to be.

Thank you.