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Conférence sur la sécurité nucléaire – 10 au 14 février 2020

Déclaration nationale

Co-chairs,

Mr. Director General,

Honourable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

France fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the European Union and would like to add the following points.

France has set national objectives to strengthen nuclear security and is also committed to sharing its expertise with countries that request it, in particular through its participation to the work of the IAEA.

With the world's second largest nuclear fleet, France attaches the greatest importance to nuclear security, which is the primary responsibility of States. The threat of a nuclear or radiological terrorist act remains a genuine concern which must encourage each State to do everything in its power to ensure the security of nuclear

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and radioactive materials and to combat illicit trafficking. Since the last conference in 2016, France has continued to adapt its legislative and regulatory framework to the evolving threat. In this context, it has, in particular, strengthened the regulatory framework applicable to the security of radioactive sources. The IAEA "IPPAS" advisory mission that France received in 2018 recognized the "robust and well-established" nature of the French nuclear security regime.

Advisory missions on physical protection or on materials outside of regulatory control represent concrete services offered by the IAEA. France encourages all States to host such missions. In this regard, I would like to stress the Agency's essential contribution to international efforts in the area of nuclear security and its central role of coordination and facilitation. I underline France's commitment to taking into account the threats generated by nuclear or radioactive materials outside of regulatory control. France has recognized expertise in the field of detection and response to this type of threat, which it is prepared to share with States that so request.

Co-Chairs,

I am pleased to confirm that France wishes to step up its international support for nuclear security in all its three dimensions: political, financial and technical.

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At the political level, France is developing new bilateral and multilateral dialogues to promote the exchange of best practices. In 2019, during its presidency of the G7, it made nuclear security a priority in the framework of the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and has also led the group on nuclear safety and security. Moreover, it has led efforts towards the universalization of international conventions on nuclear security.

The security of radioactive sources remains a priority, and France is organizing an event on Tuesday on the implementation of the joint statement INFCIRC/910. It is also committed to emerging security issues, in particular insider threats. That is why I have the honour to announce France's accession to the joint declaration on mitigating insider threats, referenced in INFCIRC/908.

In financial terms, France contributes annually to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund. Starting this year, it will finance a new capacity building project in the Sahel worth one million euros.

I am also pleased to announce the start of a new cooperation between France and Interpol in the field of NRBCs, with a financial support of half a million euros. This participation will contribute to the launch in 2020 of a pilot project to support first responders in the Sahel.

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Finally, at the technical level, France will continue to make its expertise available to promote the safe and responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. France regularly hosts training courses or visits by foreign delegations. In particular, in April 2020, France will organize a seminar on the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, in Paris.

I anticipate that this Conference will promote constructive exchanges and produce concrete results, thanks to the quality of cooperation within the IAEA, which is based on the non-politicization of the technical work carried out there.

Thank you.