

**Statement by Vice-minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania
Ms. Lina Sabaitienė**

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

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to address the third International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS): Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts. Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

This conference gives us an excellent opportunity to review the status of nuclear security efforts and to further maintain and strengthen both national nuclear security systems and international cooperation. ICONS 2020 enables us to promote universalization of related international legal instruments increasing the responsibility of all States developing civilian nuclear energy capabilities. We welcome the Ministerial declaration and we are looking forward to the successful outcome of this conference.

Lithuania strongly supports the central role of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in coordinating global efforts for strengthening the global nuclear security architecture. IAEA safeguards system ensures efficient detection of violations of non-proliferation obligations. Therefore, we call on all States concerned to adopt and implement the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement together with the Additional Protocol. We also emphasise the importance of the universalisation of the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A). Using this opportunity, we would like to encourage all States, [including our neighbour Belarus], to finalize the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Amendment to the CPPNM without delay in order to ensure proper verification and protection of their nuclear facilities and material.

The international community must remain vigilant of nuclear security challenges it might face, such as nuclear terrorism, misuse of nuclear and radioactive material as well as cyber-threats against nuclear facilities. The risk that non-state actors might get hold of and use nuclear or radiological materials, including radioactive sources, needs to be taken seriously into account in our overall efforts to prevent terrorist acts. Therefore, we continuously underline the importance of full compliance to the provisions of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Lithuania remains strongly committed to contribute to strengthening nuclear security culture, including by providing regional capacity building and training services in prevention, detection, response, and investigation of the nuclear security incidents. Since 2012, Lithuanian Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence (NSCOE) has been providing its support to the national competent authorities and international partners building operational capabilities and developing personnel competences in the field of nuclear security. Being a member of the IAEA Nuclear Security Support Centres Network (and currently chairing this initiative), the Lithuanian Centre of Excellence has been actively involved in analysing Network members needs and capabilities, building cooperation and coordination among them and generating good practices aiming to support sustainable nuclear security globally. Our national centre is also engaged into numerous other projects with IAEA, Interpol, Global Initiative Combating Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), as well as some European regional projects.

In order to contribute to confidence building and to assess national physical protection regime, IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission was held in Lithuania in 2017. Lithuania invited Agency to conduct a follow-up Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in 2020 and Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) mission in 2021. These missions will be implemented with the help of the Agency technical cooperation programme.

Nuclear security is closely interlinked with nuclear safety. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to promote understanding of synergies between security and safety in existing and planned nuclear installations. Strict adherence to international requirements and effective application of IAEA safety standards and security guidance, as well as strong commitment to the principles of transparency, integrity and spirit of good neighbourhood, is the only way to ensure safe and secure use of nuclear energy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). We are looking forward to its upcoming Review Conference taking place in a few months as a great opportunity to uphold the Treaty and maintain its credibility and effectiveness in nuclear disarmament, global non-proliferation regime and further cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Lithuania emphasizes that the NPT provides a solid, rigorous and effective framework for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in support of social-economic development worldwide. Its thorough implementation is essential to ensuring the safe use of nuclear energy and nuclear applications in a growing range of fields.

Thank you.