

**Statement of Norway  
10 February 2020**

**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining  
and Strengthening Efforts**

Presidents,  
Excellencies,  
Director General,  
Distinguished delegates and friends,

Let me express my sincere thanks to the IAEA and its Member States for convening this conference. A particular thanks to Director General Grossi and the Agency staff for your leadership and dedication.

Presidents,

Norway remains committed to international cooperation to effectively combat existing and emerging nuclear security threats. We must work together to secure nuclear and other radioactive materials from theft or misuse.

While some countries use nuclear power, almost *all* countries use radioactive sources.

Each country has a role to play in strengthening global nuclear security.

Efforts for nuclear security require a set of common standards and best practices. Common commitments support national actions. Norway recognizes the IAEA as the cornerstone of the international nuclear security architecture. The Agency is indispensable to the development of international security guidance, the provision of support to Member States, and the coordination of nuclear security activities.

Norway considers it necessary to increase resources available over the Agency's regular budget for nuclear security. We also call upon States to contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund.

Our efforts must take account of the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce. I commend the IAEA for facilitating a technical program for ICONS that emphasize the role of cyber in nuclear security.

Presidents,

Norway's active involvement in nuclear security is an integral part of our work to promote the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to achieve the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of our common efforts. Next month, we mark 50 years since its entry into force. The Treaty has served us well. It remains our shared responsibility to ensure that it continues to do so in the future.

A robust safety and security regime enables peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Nuclear security sustains the application of technology that can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Presidents,

Norway strongly advocates minimizing and eliminating the use and stockpiling of highly enriched uranium (HEU). Converting to non-HEU alternatives will reduce nuclear-weapons-usable material to a minimum. A Joint Statement on this has been issued as an Information Circular.<sup>1</sup>

Several information circulars touch upon priority areas for securing nuclear and other radioactive material. Endorsing these Joint Statements is a concrete step that we can make to demonstrate our commitments to improved nuclear security practices.

Presidents,

Norway looks forward to the review conference for the *Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material*. We believe this should be followed by future, periodical review conferences. We fully support the IAEA in its efforts for the universalization of the Amendment and effective implementation of all obligations. The Convention is also a reminder of the importance of industry's involvement in nuclear security. Nuclear security is too important not to engage with industry and civil society.

Presidents,

It is generally estimated that women comprise only 20 % of the nuclear workforce globally. In June, the *World Institute for Nuclear Security* (WINS) plans to release an International Best Practice Guide on increasing the representation of women in nuclear security. Norway is proud to support this publication which I hope will inspire

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<sup>1</sup> INFCIRC 912. Joint Statement on Minimising and Eliminating the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Civilian Applications. Available on: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/2017/infcirc912.pdf>

us to improve the gender balance in the nuclear security workforce, as advocated by the Director General.

Presidents,

Norway welcomes the Ministerial Declaration as the outcome document of this conference. Nuclear security is a global common good that can only be assured through committed international cooperation. We should continue to work together with a view to develop concise, ambitious and forward-looking commitments.

Thank you