

**National Statement**  
**at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining**  
**and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020)**

**Vienna, 11 February 2020**

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to present the Republic of Korea's national statement at the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) 2020. I would like to join other colleagues in expressing gratitude to the co-chairs and the Secretariat for organizing this meaningful event.

Distinguished delegates,

Looking back on the past years, the international community has made a lot of progress in building up global nuclear security architecture. The Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process in that sense, is of particular importance. Building upon the momentum generated by the NSS, this conference has become a main vehicle in exchanging views for coordinating global efforts. Reassuring our commitment to strengthening international nuclear security regime through the ICONS, let me elaborate briefly the efforts made by the Korean government.

First, over the years, the IAEA has been assisting Member States in building national capacity and facilitating international and regional cooperation in the field of nuclear security. In order to make IAEA's role sustainable, we should make sure that the IAEA has the resources and support it needs. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has contributed around 7 million US dollars to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) since 2012.

Last year, in order to enhance regional capacity building, we began designing new projects with the Agency focusing on the ASEAN, including a training course on nuclear forensics for ASEAN member states, in light of our "New Southern Policy". It is the flagship initiative of my government to broaden our scope of regional cooperation. We expect that these projects lay a solid foundation for further cooperation between the ROK and the IAEA in strengthening regional capacity building.

Second, the Republic of Korea amended our relevant national act in 2014, following the ratification of the Amendment to CPPNM. In accordance with the revised domestic regulations, we conducted more than 150 nuclear and radiological emergency response exercises which have enhanced our preparedness and readiness against possible emergency situations. In this vein, this amendment is meaningful in coordinating and systemizing efforts among all related authorities involved.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to call upon all Member States that are yet to join to sign and ratify the Amendment at the earliest time. We also look forward to the 2021 CPPNM Review Conference to contribute to the universalization by raising awareness of significance of the Amendment.

Third, we share the view that we need to pay close attention to the emerging threats to nuclear security from new technologies.

One of the most visible challenges that lie ahead is cyber-attacks on nuclear related facilities, as stressed in the Ministerial Declaration of this conference.

As an effort to respond to cyber threats together, we hosted the “ITC (International Training Course) for Protecting Computer based Systems” last November. This course is significant as it is the first training program that taught how to pragmatically respond to cyber threats. In addition, we developed toolkits for this ITC and these are on display at the Korean exhibition booth at the VIC Rotunda. I invite you to drop by the booth to have a look at them.

Distinguished delegates,

As a host of NSS 2012, we have translated our commitments into action. For example, Korea established the International Non-Proliferation and Security Academy (INSA) in 2014. Since its inauguration, INSA hosted 45 international training courses, 19 out of them jointly with the IAEA. According to the IAEA statistics, it is considered one of the leading NSSCs (Nuclear Security Supporting Centers) in the world.

The other contribution of the Republic of Korea is about elimination of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) used for research reactors. The Republic of Korea has developed the innovative technology to make high density low-enriched uranium powder which enables the conversion of nuclear fuel for research reactors.

Distinguished delegates,

In closing, I believe that today's conference will serve as a forum for further strengthening our efforts towards effective, comprehensive and sustainable nuclear security architecture. In the end, it will contribute to making our planet better and safer.

Thank you.