

**Remarks by H.E. SHIN Chae-Hyun
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
to the International Organizations in Vienna
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining
and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020)**

Vienna, 10 February 2020

Co-Presidents,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, as we commence the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) 2020, I would like to congratulate Co-Presidents, the Director General and the Secretariat on successfully preparing and organizing this important meeting.

Following in the footsteps of the Nuclear Security Summit process, ICONS has taken the center stage as the forum for renewing our commitments and strengthening our collective efforts for nuclear security. Through this process, nuclear security is now firmly placed on the global agenda, and a more robust and comprehensive nuclear security architecture has been established across the world. It is indeed an achievement that we all should be proud of.

From the outset, the Republic of Korea has firmly supported and actively participated in all these developments and international cooperation. And, drawing upon its experience as the host of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, it assumed the Presidency of ICONS 2016. Reaffirming its unwavering commitment, the Republic of Korea will continue to play an active role in taking our collective endeavor to the next level.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

As we reflect on our achievements, this conference, more importantly, provides a timely opportunity to redouble our efforts to address unfinished tasks and deal with emerging threats and challenges, especially at a time when the international security environment is changing rapidly. In this respect, drawing from Korea's experience as the former President, we would like to share a few thoughts on areas we should pay attention to and further build upon.

First, I would like to underline the significance of the role of the IAEA. The Agency's central role in facilitating international cooperation and its work of assisting Member States in establishing and improving their national nuclear security regimes is a crucial component of the global nuclear security framework. In this regard, it is important that

the IAEA should further continue its active coordinating role and be provided with adequate resources to fulfill its mission effectively.

Second, we should mobilize our efforts toward the universalization and effective implementation of the relevant legally-binding instruments, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. While its entry into force in 2016 demonstrated our collective will, we encourage all Member States that have yet to join to sign and ratify the Amendment at the earliest opportunity.

Third, I would also like to stress the increasing need to identify and address emerging threats to nuclear security resulting from rapidly developing technologies. In particular, as highlighted in the ICONS 2020's Ministerial Declaration to be adopted today, possible cyber-attacks at nuclear related facilities and their associated activities pose one of the most pressing challenges that we face. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and portable Electronic Magnetic Pulse are likewise among emerging technologies that require our particular attention. I look forward to comprehensive and constructive discussions at the Scientific and Technical sessions this week.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

As we celebrate another milestone conference today, let us recall that nuclear security requires continuous vigilance and with Ministerial Declaration that we will adopt shortly, let us renew our commitments and further strengthen our efforts towards an effective and sustainable nuclear security architecture.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Director General and Co-Presidents on successfully convening this Conference and with their excellent leadership and guidance, I have every confidence that this conference will produce a successful and meaningful outcome.

Thank you. /END/