

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

10–14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria

Statement by HE Mrs. Saroja Sirisena, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka

Co – Presidents

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the Co-Presidents of the “Third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts”. Sri Lanka renders its support to your leadership to steer this conference towards its objectives and welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration.

Sri Lanka appreciates the IAEA Secretariat for the arrangements made for this Conference and lauds its contribution to sustain and strengthen effective and comprehensive nuclear security and takes this opportunity to wish Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and his team the best in his tenure.

Co – Presidents

Nuclear security is of paramount importance to the world. Sri Lanka recognizes the pivotal role of the IAEA, as the central agency in enhancing global nuclear safety, security and safeguards as well as in facilitating nuclear techniques and energy for peaceful purposes. The Ministerial Declaration articulates that the primary responsibility for nuclear security lies with national governments in accordance with its respective national and international obligations. It manifests that if all States adopt strong measures at the national level, nuclear security will be enhanced globally. However, the question of resources, knowhow and expertise, and capacity of States is pertinent. This is where international cooperation becomes vital. We believe that introduction of detection and nuclear forensic techniques, capacity building including education and training, and the promotion of research and development, complemented by enhanced international coordination and cooperation, the sharing of technical knowhow, and response preparedness, are components of an effective nuclear security culture. Recognizing the nexus between nuclear security and capacity

building of States like Sri Lanka, the IAEA's assistance in establishing and improving effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, including through guidance development, advisory services, and capacity building, is imperative.

On the other hand, effectiveness of nuclear security depends on a combination of factors, which are not mutually exclusive; for instance, the effectiveness of measures adopted under the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism could be further strengthened by taking simultaneous measures under an equally important legal framework; the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, which denies financial support for those acting with malicious intent.

Co – Presidents

It should also be emphasized here that measures to strengthen nuclear security must not hinder international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, transfer of such technology or the resources required. Increasingly States opt for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, to promote socio-economic development, to achieve national development objectives, and for the growing energy needs. Therefore, Sri Lanka believes that nuclear security measures enhances public confidence in the peaceful use of nuclear applications, those applications contribute to sustainable development.

We also believe that measures to strengthen nuclear security should not hamper international cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear applications.

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The Ministerial Declaration adopted yesterday and the proceedings of this Conference would pave the way forward, as it will be taken into account in developing the IAEA's 2022-2025 Nuclear Security Plan. We believe that identifying medium and long-term priorities for international nuclear security cooperation by accessing ongoing approaches and strategies would help address future challenges effectively. Nuclear security, nuclear safety and international cooperation should go hand in hand to achieve desired results.

Sri Lanka remains committed to its international obligations under various nuclear security, safety conventions and is determined to play an active role in the spheres of nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of Nuclear Energy whilst ensuring the socio-economic development of the country. Sri Lanka has given a political commitment to

implement the Code of Conduct of IAEA on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. In order to strengthen the legal infrastructure on nuclear security, the Regulations on Security of Radioactive Sources has been submitted to the Government for approval. The National Radiological Theft Response Code has been prepared in collaboration with the US Department of Energy and has been distributed amongst relevant stakeholders for implementation.

Sri Lanka also through Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council has provided physical security for all IAEA category 1 irradiation facilities in Sri Lanka to ensure security of such high activity radiation sources.

Sri Lanka appreciates the continued commitment of the IAEA and international community in further strengthening existing Nuclear Security Architecture in the world.

Thank you, Co – Presidents