



Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future 2024

Delivered by

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**Check against delivery*

Vienna, 21 May 2024

Messrs. Co-Chairs, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to extend, on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, my sincere thanks to Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA and the Secretariat for organizing the Fourth International Conference on Nuclear Security. I would like to particularly commend our Co-Chairs who spared no effort, during the negotiation process, in order to forge consensus and align with the joint statement prepared by the Co-Chairs.

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

2. **One decade after the organization of three international conferences, from strengthening global efforts to shaping nuclear security, today's conference is taking place** in an international context marked by escalating geopolitical tensions, where nuclear security constitutes a real challenge requiring mobilization at a time when the use of nuclear material for malicious purposes is a serious threat to international peace and security.
3. In this respect, needless to recall that the **Nuclear Security Summit (NSS)** process generated political will and commitment for strengthening nuclear security regime, by emphasizing the **centrality of the IAEA role** in the field of nuclear security and the primacy of State responsibility in strengthening the international nuclear security architecture, as underlined by the communiqués of Washington and Seoul Summits in 2010 and 2012.
4. Within this dynamic, the IAEA launched the **International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) in 2013** which reaffirmed our common political commitment by adopting Ministerial Declarations in 2016 and 2020, aiming at emphasizing commitment to enhance and sustain effective and comprehensive nuclear security architecture of all nuclear facilities and other radioactive material.
5. Indeed, our Conference today presents a valuable chance to **assess** the progress made during last decade, **identify** the needs of States to establish relevant targets and priorities within the IAEA and **lay solid foundations to Shape the Future of Nuclear Security, which is the main goal of our gathering.**

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

6. Morocco reaffirms the principle according to which **the primary responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with the States**, in accordance with their national obligations and international commitments.
7. In this regard, my country completed its accession to all international nuclear safety and security conventions, by ratifying the Convention on Nuclear Safety in 2019, and continued taking actions to strengthen its national nuclear security architecture.
8. In this context and in the perspective of the celebration of 20 years of the adoption of the Amendment of the IAEA Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the UN International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), adopted under the chairmanship of Morocco on April 2005 in New York. Morocco believes that this momentum should be maintained and enhanced within our global efforts and our collective commitment to reinforcing the complementarity and synergy between these international legal instruments, in terms of their contents and objectives.

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

9. During last decade, Morocco's contributions to international efforts to strengthen the international nuclear security regime **was rich in its content, diversified in its methodology and multifaceted in its dynamics.** It emanates from its constant **commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation** and its deep conviction of the role of multilateral action in this area aimed at

preserving the **subtle balance** between the right to the peaceful use of energy and the strict compliance with international commitments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation.

10. **Indeed, the organization in 2013 of the Convex3 exercise** with a double security and safety dimensions, and which conclusions were shared with Member States, constitutes a substantial contribution by Morocco to the IAEA's actions in the field of nuclear security that **focused on a scenario simulating the transport, by sea, of a radioactive source from the Port of Algeciras to that of Tangier-Med.**
11. In addition, in 2015, **jointly with Spain and the IAEA, Morocco organized “Gate to Africa” exercise in its dual component TTX and Field exercise.** During this exercise, the first of its kind, the relevant civil and military security services of Morocco and Spain were involved in this simulation to test their information exchange, coordination and response mechanisms.
12. **On the regulatory level,** my country organized the **third International Conference of Nuclear Security Regulators** in Marrakech, in October 2019, following the conferences of Washington in 2012 and Madrid in 2016, in order to share good practices on the implementation of IAEA recommendations among regulatory bodies to improve the nuclear security regime.

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

13. **In line with its national commitment, Morocco has taken, in the last four year, initiatives to further consolidates its nuclear security in close cooperation with the IAEA and partner States.**
14. In this regard, last November, **the IAEA emergency preparedness review mission (EPREV) commended the solid basis for EPR arrangements, implemented in Morocco,** for nuclear and radiological emergencies, and also noted a number of specific commendable practices that **go beyond the expectations set in the IAEA Safety Standards.**
15. Moreover, Morocco received **the Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission (IRRS),** last December, which **underlined that Morocco has taken effective measures to establish a new coherent legal and regulatory framework for nuclear and radiological safety.**
16. Besides, Morocco continues to organize national workshops on transport of nuclear and radioactive materials, as well as on nuclear security culture, and training courses on Nuclear Material Accounting.
17. In this vein, **the National Technical Crisis Center was upgraded in Partnership with the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration through the installation of two videoconferencing systems, the upgrade of the two SPARCs systems, and dedicated training on these systems.** In this connection, Morocco and the United States signed on September 2022, a **joint Statement highlighting the model of cooperation, the longstanding commitment between both countries to enhance capabilities for preparing and responding to any and all potential nuclear or radiological emergencies, including Nuclear Terrorism Response and Mitigation.**

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

18. The Kingdom of Morocco, **under the high guidance of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI,** is attached to the principles of South-South cooperation and African Solidarity and committed to continue its actions in support of a strong multilateral cooperation to promote peace and security.
19. **At the regional level, Morocco, in recent years, has been according to the IAEA records, one of the leading countries in Africa providing trainings, workshop, education, and sharing technical expertise with all African Member States.** In fact, Moroccan training infrastructure (AMSSNuR, CNESTEN, etc.) which have developed internationally recognized expertise in training in the field of nuclear applications and nuclear security have contributed to training over

700 African professionals during the last two years. **In this respect, it's worth recalling the following:**

- a. The IAEA designated, in 2019, the Moroccan Agency of Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security (AMSSNuR) **as the first African IAEA Capacity Building Centre (CBC) for Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR).**
- b. The CNESTEN was designated, during last IAEA General Conference, as the **first International Centre Based on Research Reactors (ICERR), enabling it to function as a global learning platform for scientists from around the world and particularly from Africa**, contributing inter alia to promote the culture of nuclear security in different fields.
- c. *AMSSNuR*, signed last September a practical arrangement with IAEA establishing **“the African School for Radiation Safety Regulators,”** which started providing trainings covering all functions of the regulatory bodies and their organization.
- d. Additionally, last January, Morocco organized jointly with the United States, in Marrakech, **Africa Political Meeting and Outreach Event dedicated to the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI).** This meeting, considered as the largest PSI event and the first of its kind dedicated solely to African countries, saw high-level participation from 25 African countries in addition to several senior experts from European and Asian countries, part of the PSI Core Group. This successful event dedicated to Africa was marked by the official endorsement of 7 new African countries of the PSI, bringing the total numbers from 6 to 13, African countries. **In addition, this African political conference adopted jointly the Marrakech Declaration, reinforcing African commitment to countering the proliferation of WMDs.**

Messrs. Co-Chairs,

20. Morocco believes that it is time to consider organizing a high-level segment on nuclear security under the leadership of the IAEA during the work of the UN General Assembly as inclusive framework to garner the unwavering support of Heads of State and Government for the IAEA's action in favor of strengthening the IAEA international regime in the areas of nuclear security.
21. In addition, Morocco is of the view that identifying clear objectives and priorities for ICONS will serve the visibility of this significant multilateral process in perspective of the upcoming International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in 2028.
22. **In closing,** Morocco proposes to launch a deep reflection on the future of this process of international conferences on nuclear security. **we believe that there is no fatigue in nuclear security which remains a central theme that, we, as Member States should continue to prioritize** to meet the emerging challenges and expectations linked to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful conference.