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Nuclear security – Measures to protect against nuclear terrorism

Progress on measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism

Resolution adopted on 4 October 2008 during the tenth plenary meeting

The General Conference,¹

- (a) Recalling its previous resolutions on measures to improve the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials and on measures against the illicit trafficking of these materials,
- (b) Considering, in view of the ever growing number of tragic terrorist attacks worldwide, the need to continue to devote specific attention to the potential implications of terrorist acts for the security of nuclear materials, other radioactive materials in production, use, storage and transport, including associated facilities, and emphasizing the importance of physical protection and other measures against illicit trafficking and national control systems for ensuring protection against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts, including the use of radioactive material in a radiological dispersion device,
- (c) Noting the four-year Nuclear Security Plan 2006-2009 adopted by the Board of Governors in September 2005,
- (d) Recognizing that threat-based risk assessment methodology is relevant for nuclear security,
- (e) Reaffirming that the overall goal of the Agency's nuclear security activities is to assist Member States in improving their nuclear security upon their request, as appropriate,

¹ The resolution was adopted with 77 votes in favour, 0 against and 10 abstentions (roll call vote).

- (f) Mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with its international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear safety and security, and asserting that responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and noting the important contribution of the Agency in facilitating international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities,
- (g) Noting the United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373, 1540, 1673 and 1810, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/78, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and other actions of the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material, which constitute valuable contributions to the protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism,
- (h) Reaffirming the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, as the only multilateral legally binding instrument dealing specifically with the physical protection of nuclear material, and the value of its Amendment extending its scope and thereby strengthening global nuclear security,
- (i) Noting the various contributions of the G-8 since the adoption of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction at the Kananaskis summit in June 2002, including the Statement on Counter-Terrorism made in Hokkaido Toyako on 9 July 2008, and noting also the implementation of the European Union strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction adopted in December 2003 and other national and international contributions, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism,
- (j) Noting the role of the Agency in facilitating the development of relevant nuclear security documents that establish fundamentals, recommendations and guidance to assist States in implementing the legally binding and non-binding international instruments, and reaffirming that the Agency's recommendations related to enhancing nuclear security are voluntary in nature,
- (k) Recalling, in this context, the important role that the recommendations contained in "The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225) have played in providing internationally accepted guidance for effective physical protection, and noting that INFCIRC/225, which was last revised in 1999, is currently being revised to address the current nuclear security threats,
- (l) Recalling that international agreements in the safety area multilaterally negotiated under the auspices of the Agency, as well as the activities of the Agency in the safety area, could be relevant to an integrated approach to nuclear security,
- (m) Reaffirming the importance and value of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while recognizing that the Code is not a legally binding instrument,
- (n) Noting the central contribution of the Agency's safeguards system, and also of States' Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials, to preventing illicit trafficking and to deterring and detecting the diversion of nuclear materials, to the extent to which such control procedures are applicable,
- (o) Recognizing the work of the Agency's Nuclear Security Equipment Laboratory in cooperation with Member States to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of equipment used to detect illicit movement of nuclear and other radioactive materials,

- (p) Recognizing the work done by the Agency in providing technical assistance and expert advice to countries hosting major public international events, and
- (q) Stressing the essential importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security, in particular information that might be of interest to terrorists,
1. Welcomes the Nuclear Security Report 2008 submitted by the Director General in document GC(52)/12 on measures to improve nuclear security and protect against nuclear terrorism, produced in response to resolution GC(51)/RES/12, commends the Director General and the Secretariat for the implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009, and looks forward to their continued efforts, in particular in the development of the forthcoming Nuclear Security Plan for 2010-2013;
 2. Requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this resolution be undertaken subject to the availability of resources;
 3. Calls upon all Member States to provide political, financial and technical support, including in-kind contributions, to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism, and to provide the Nuclear Security Fund the political and, on a voluntary basis, financial support it needs, in a manner which enables flexibility to the extent possible;
 4. Calls upon States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) to work towards its universal adherence and to accelerate the ratification of the amendment to the Convention and to act for its early entry into force and encourages them to act in accordance with the object and purpose of the amendment until such time as it enters into force, and encourages all States that have not done so to adhere to the Convention and the amendment as soon as possible;
 5. Requests the Secretariat to give priority to facilitating the revision of the recommendations contained in "The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225) by Member States as part of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series of documents;
 6. Recalls the functions assigned to the Agency by the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, in force since 7 July 2007 and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention as soon as possible;
 7. Recalls the General Assembly resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy encouraging the Agency to help States to build capacity to prevent terrorists from accessing nuclear materials, ensure security at related facilities and respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials;
 8. Encourages the Secretariat to continue, in consultation with Member States, to play a constructive role in international nuclear security related initiatives, inter alia the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, within its nuclear security programme;
 9. Invites the Secretariat to provide such assistance upon request to Member States in fulfilling their obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and to the 1540 Committee as is within the scope of the Agency's statutory responsibilities;
 10. Calls upon all States to ensure that measures to strengthen nuclear security should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive materials, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy, and without undermining the established priorities of the technical cooperation programme;
 11. Invites all States to consider the potential danger of illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material across their borders and within their countries, notes that the Illicit Trafficking

Database Programme (ITDB) may help identifying vulnerabilities in security systems, takes note in this context of the results of the “International Conference on Illicit trafficking: Collective Experience and the Way Forward” which was held in Edinburgh in November 2007 and the participation of 100 Member states in the ITDB and invites all States to participate in the ITDB on a voluntary basis;

12. Welcomes the Agency’s work in the field of nuclear forensics, aimed at assisting Member States in connection with the detection and response to, and determination of the origin of, illicitly trafficked nuclear and other radioactive materials, and urges Member States to provide continued support to the Agency’s activities in this field;

13. Welcomes the efforts of the Agency to assist countries which, on a voluntary basis have chosen to convert research reactors from HEU to LEU fuel;

14. Notes with appreciation the work of the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security in providing advice from Member States’ experts on the orientations and the implementation of Agency activities relevant to nuclear and radiological security and in reviewing associated documents and services;

15. Supports the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement appropriate confidentiality measures and to report as appropriate to the Board of Governors on the status of the implementation of the new confidentiality measures;

16. Invites all Member States to contribute to the nuclear security symposium in March 2009 to identify ways forward to continue to enhance global nuclear security, and to explore proposals for the Nuclear Security Plan for 2010–2013;

17. Invites the Director General to continue to implement, in consultation and coordination with Member States, pursuant to the Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009, Agency activities relevant to nuclear security, including protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism and detection of and response to terrorist acts involving nuclear and other radioactive material;

18. Welcomes the Agency’s initiative to assist States, upon their request, as appropriate, in planning their future nuclear security activities, in particular through Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP);

19. Welcomes the activities by the Agency in support of States' efforts to enhance nuclear security worldwide and encourages States to use the Agency's nuclear security advisory services for exchange of views and advice on nuclear security measures; and

20. Requests the Director General to submit an annual Nuclear Security report to the General Conference at its fifty-third (2009) regular session on activities undertaken by the Agency in the area of nuclear security, highlighting significant accomplishments of the prior year and indicating programmatic goals and priorities for the year to come.