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Nuclear security, including measures to protect against nuclear and radiological terrorism*

Resolution adopted on 18 September 2009 during the eleventh plenary meeting

The General Conference,

- (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, as well as national control systems for ensuring protection against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts, including the use of radioactive material in a radiological dispersion device or a radiation exposure device,
- (c) Noting the four-year Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013 approved by the Board of Governors in September 2009,
- (d) Recognizing that the threat-based risk assessment methodology is relevant to nuclear security,
- (e) Reaffirming that the overall goal of the Agency's nuclear security activities is to assist Member States, upon their request, in improving their nuclear security, as appropriate,
- (f) Mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with its international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear security, and asserting that the 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 63/60, the International Convention for the

* Note: the title of the resolution has been corrected.

Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and other international efforts to prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related materials,

(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 international efforts to enhance nuclear security,

(j) Noting the role of the Agency in the development of the nuclear security series of documents that establish fundamentals, recommendations and guidance to assist States in implementing the legally binding and non-binding international instruments related to nuclear security, and reaffirming that the application of these documents on nuclear security is voluntary in nature,

(k) Recalling the important role that the recommendations contained in "The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225) have played in providing guidance to Member States for effective physical protection, and noting that INFCIRC/225, which was last revised in 1999, is currently under revision,

(l) Noting that other international agreements multilaterally negotiated under the auspices of the Agency in the safety area, as well as the activities of the Agency in the safety area, should contribute to an integrated approach to nuclear security,

(m) Reaffirming the importance and the 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 loss of control and illicit trafficking and to deterring and detecting the unauthorized removal of nuclear materials, to the extent to which such control procedures are applicable,

(o) Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 60/78, which states that progress is urgently needed in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help to maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism, and acknowledging the need to make further progress towards achieving nuclear disarmament,

(p) Noting the importance of the Agency's training programmes to assist Member States in ensuring adequate and effective protection of their nuclear and other radioactive materials and associated facilities,

(q) 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 loss of control and illicit movement of nuclear and other radioactive materials,

(r) Recognizing the work done by the Agency in providing support, technical assistance and expert advice to countries in their efforts to secure vulnerable nuclear and other radioactive materials,

(s) Recognizing the work done by the Agency in providing technical assistance and expert advice to countries hosting major public events, and

(t) Stressing the essential importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security,

1. Welcomes the Nuclear Security Report 2009 submitted by the Director General in document GC(53)/16 on measures to improve nuclear security and protect against nuclear terrorism, produced in response to resolution GC(52)/RES/10, commends the Director General and the Secretariat for the implementation of Nuclear Security Plan for 2006-2009, and looks forward to their continued efforts, particularly in implementing the new Nuclear Security Plan for 2010-2013;
2. Calls upon all Member States to consider providing the necessary support to international efforts to enhance nuclear security through various arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels, and recalls the decision by the Board of Governors on support for the Nuclear Security Fund;
3. Calls upon States Parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) to work towards its universal adherence and where applicable to accelerate the ratification of the amendment to the Convention and to act for the early entry into force of that amendment, 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;
4. Requests the Secretariat to give high 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 its work on the nuclear security series documents;
5. 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;
6. 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;
7. Encourages the Secretariat to continue, in coordination with Member States, within its nuclear security programme, to play a constructive and coordinated role in nuclear security related initiatives, inter alia, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and to work jointly, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations and institutions;
8. Encourages the Secretariat to continue its training programme for Member States on nuclear security as requested, and expand the courses offered, and to adapt them as appropriate to meet the needs of Member States;
9. Invites the Secretariat to provide assistance to Member States upon their request in fulfilling their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and to the 1540 Committee, provided that such requests are 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. Calls upon all States to identify secure storage and disposition pathways for disused radioactive sealed sources so that such sources in their territories remain under regulatory control, unless exempted from regulatory control, and further calls upon States to address obstacles to the return of disused sources to the supplier State;
12. Calls upon all States to recognize the potential danger of illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials across their borders and within their countries;
13. Notes that the Illicit Trafficking Database Programme (ITDB) may help in identifying vulnerabilities in security systems, takes notes of the participation of 108 Member States in the ITDB and invites States to participate in such databases on a voluntary basis;
14. Notes the Agency's work in the field of nuclear forensics, aimed at assisting Member States in connection with the detection of and response to, and determination of the origin of, illicitly trafficked nuclear and other radioactive materials, and encourages Member States to provide continued support to the Agency's activities in this field;
15. Encourages Member States which have not yet done so to establish national nuclear material databases;
16. 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;
17. 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;
18. 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 in conformity with the Agency's confidentiality regime and to report as appropriate to the Board of Governors on the status of the implementation of the confidentiality measures;
19. Takes note of the outcomes of the nuclear security symposium held by the Agency in Vienna in March 2009;
20. Invites the Director General to continue, in consultation and coordination with Member States, pursuant to the Nuclear Security Plan for 2010–2013, to implement the Agency's activities relevant to nuclear security;
21. 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 (INSSPs);
22. Welcomes the activities of 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 exchanges of views and advice on nuclear security measures and its human resource development programme;
23. Requests that the actions of the Secretariat called for in this resolution be undertaken subject to the availability of resources; and
24. Requests the Director General to submit an annual Nuclear Security Report to the General Conference at its fifty-fourth (2010) 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.