

# General Conference

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# Nuclear Security

## Resolution adopted on 22 September 2021 during the ninth plenary meeting

### The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its previous resolutions on measures to improve the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and on measures against the illicit trafficking of these materials,
- (b) Taking note of the Nuclear Security Report 2021 submitted by the Director General in document GC(65)/10, of the Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021 approved by the Board of Governors in document GC(61)/24 and of the Nuclear Security Plan 2022–2025 approved by the Board of Governors in document GC(65)/24,
- (c) Reaffirming the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of atomic energy, recognizing that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security, and stressing that progress in nuclear disarmament is critically needed and will continue to be addressed in all relevant fora, consistent with the relevant obligations and commitments of Member States,
- (d) Asserting that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with its respective national and international obligations, to maintain at all times effective and comprehensive nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive material,
- (e) Recognizing physical protection as a key element of nuclear security,
- (f) Recognizing that addressing challenges associated with computer technology, as well as other new technologies, plays an increasing role in ensuring the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and associated facilities,
- (g) Acknowledging that advances in science, technology and engineering present opportunities to enhance nuclear security, and stressing the need to address current and evolving challenges to nuclear security, while reaffirming that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State,

- (h) Recalling with appreciation the International Conferences on Nuclear Security (ICONS) in 2013, 2016 and 2020, and their related Ministerial Declarations, and taking note of valuable technical expert discussions reflected in the Presidents' Reports,
- (i) Recognizing the importance of maintaining and strengthening the dialogue between relevant government bodies and the nuclear industry at national level on nuclear security,
- (j) Underlining the enduring need to raise awareness of nuclear security among all stakeholders, which include users of nuclear and other radioactive material and competent authorities in Member States and among the relevant staff of the Secretariat,
- (k) Acknowledging that nuclear security may contribute to the positive perception, at a national level, of peaceful nuclear activities,
- (l) Recognizing the central role of the Agency, as emphasized for instance by the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in August 2012, in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents and, on request, providing assistance to Member States in order to facilitate their implementation,
- (m) Emphasizing the need for the involvement of all Member States of the Agency in nuclear security-related activities and initiatives in an inclusive manner, and noting the role that international processes and initiatives, including the Nuclear Security Summits, have played in the area of nuclear security,
- (n) Reaffirming the central role of the Agency in facilitating international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure the security of civilian nuclear and other radioactive material,
- (o) Reaffirming the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment extending its scope, recognizing the importance of acceptance, approval or ratification by further States, and noting the importance of their full implementation and universalization,
- (p) Recalling the Director General's role as depositary of the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment,
- (q) Recognizing that highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium in all their applications require special precautions to ensure their nuclear security and that it is of great importance that they be appropriately secured and accounted for, by and in the relevant State,
- (r) Recognizing the importance of minimizing the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and using low enriched uranium (LEU) where technically and economically feasible,
- (s) Noting United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373, 1540, 1673, 1810, 1977 and 2325, United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/38, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and international efforts in conformity with these instruments to prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related material,
- (t) Noting the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) relating to nuclear security,

- (u) Recognizing the need to strengthen and improve cooperation in, and the coordination of, international efforts in the field of nuclear security in order to avoid duplication and overlap, and acknowledging the central role of the Agency in this respect,
  - (v) Emphasizing the need for Member States to continue providing appropriate technical, human and financial resources, including through the Nuclear Security Fund, for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities and to enable the Agency to provide, upon request, the support needed by Member States,
  - (w) Recognizing that nuclear security and safety measures have the common aim of protecting human health, society and the environment, while acknowledging the distinctions between the two areas, and affirming the importance of coordination in this regard, and underlining the importance that, at the national level, both these areas are dealt with appropriately, by governments and their competent authorities according to their respective competencies,
  - (x) Noting the recommended requirements for measures to protect against sabotage of nuclear facilities and unauthorized removal of nuclear material in use, storage and transport included in IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 13 (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5), using inter alia a graded approach, as well as the ongoing work by the Agency on further guidance on their implementation, including during the process of design, construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear facilities,
  - (y) Recalling the objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and its Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources,
  - (z) Noting the importance of security of transport of nuclear and other radioactive material and stressing the need to take effective measures to protect nuclear and other radioactive material during transport against unauthorized removal or sabotage,
  - (aa) Reaffirming and respecting each Member State's choices in nuclear technology, and encouraging the Agency to promote and facilitate technical exchanges of experience, knowledge and good practices on the use and security of high activity radioactive sources during their full life cycle, and inform Member States, within its mandate, of nuclear and radiation technology options which are technically feasible, economically viable and sustainable,
  - (bb) Noting the contribution of Member States' systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material to preventing loss of control and illicit trafficking and to deterring and detecting the unauthorized removal of nuclear material,
  - (cc) Underlining the importance of Agency programmes for education and training in nuclear security, as well as other international, regional and national efforts to this end,
  - (dd) Recognizing the importance of considering nuclear and radiological security when organizing major public events, and commending the work done by the Agency in providing, upon request, technical assistance and expert support to countries hosting major public events, and
  - (ee) Stressing the essential importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security,
1. Affirms the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security, while avoiding duplication and overlap;

2. Calls upon all Member States, within their responsibility, to achieve and maintain highly effective nuclear security, including physical protection, of nuclear and other radioactive material during use, storage and transport and of the associated facilities at all stages in their life cycle, as well as protecting sensitive information;
3. Calls upon the Secretariat to continue to implement the Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021 (GC(61)/24) and to implement the Nuclear Security Plan 2022–2025 (GC(65)/24) accordingly and in a comprehensive and coordinated manner;
4. Encourages the Agency to enhance its technical capabilities and keep abreast of scientific and technological innovations with a view to confronting current and evolving challenges and risks to nuclear security;
5. Welcomes the fact that the IAEA Secretariat and Member States have taken into account resolution GC(64)/RES/10 and also have considered the ICONS 2020 Ministerial Declaration in the consultations process between the Secretariat and the Member States during the development of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan 2022–2025;
6. Calls upon the Secretariat to continue to organize ICONS every four years;
7. Calls upon Member States that have not yet done so to establish or designate, and sustain a competent authority or authorities responsible for the implementation of the legislative and regulatory framework, which is or are functionally independent in its or their regulatory decision-making from any other bodies that deal with the promotion or utilization of nuclear or other radioactive material, and which has or have the legal authority and the human, financial and technical resources necessary for fulfilling its or their responsibilities;
8. Calls upon all States to ensure that measures to strengthen nuclear security do not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and do not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme;
9. Calls upon all Member States to consider providing the necessary political, technical and financial support to the Agency's efforts to enhance nuclear security through various arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels, and recalls the decision of the Board of Governors on support for the Nuclear Security Fund;
10. Encourages all Parties to the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment to fully implement their obligations thereunder, encourages States that have not yet done so to become party to this Convention and its Amendment, further encourages the Agency to continue efforts to promote further adherence to the Amendment with the aim of its universalization, welcomes the organization by the Secretariat of CPPNM meetings and encourages all Parties to the Convention to participate in relevant meetings, and reminds all Parties to inform the depositary of their laws and regulations which give effect to the Convention;
11. Welcomes the ongoing preparatory process for the 2022 Conference, which is being convened in accordance with article 16.1 of the CPPNM, as modified by its 2005 Amendment, and encourages all States Parties and EURATOM to engage actively;
12. Notes the creation of an online repository of documents on the CPPNM, its 2005 Amendment, and relevant Review Conferences and requests the Secretariat to continue to update it as appropriate;

13. Encourages all Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as soon as possible;
14. Encourages the Secretariat to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in their development of national legislative and regulatory frameworks and, in consultation with Member States, to consider ways of further promoting and facilitating the exchange, on a voluntary basis, of information on the implementation of the international legal instruments relevant to nuclear security;
15. Takes note that regional organizations of regulatory authorities can strengthen regional cooperation through the exchange of information, experience and technical expertise, and encourages the Secretariat to provide assistance to such fora, on request;
16. Requests the Secretariat to continue improving communication with the public and Member States about its nuclear security activities, such as advisory services, development of non-legally binding guidance, assistance and training, and how these activities assist Member States to improve nuclear security globally, and welcomes the efforts by Member States to contribute to raising the awareness of the Agency's nuclear security activities, with due respect to confidentiality;
17. Recognizes and supports the key role of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC), including through coordination and priority-setting in the development and periodic review, when necessary and in a timely manner, of the Nuclear Security Series publications, encourages all Member States to actively participate in the NSGC and the review process of the Nuclear Security Series publications, and requests the continued assistance of the Secretariat to enable representatives of all Member States to participate in the work of the NSGC;
18. Encourages the Secretariat to further address delays in the editing and publication process of Nuclear Security Series documents so that they may be made available in a timely manner and in all UN languages;
19. Requests the Secretariat, while recognizing the distinction between nuclear safety and nuclear security, to continue facilitating, in close cooperation with Member States, a coordination process to address their interfaces in a timely manner, encourages the Agency to develop safety and security publications, to ensure consistency and to foster culture accordingly, and notes the current discussion on the development of publications reflecting their interfaces;
20. Calls upon all Member States to take into account information security, considering the balance between security and transparency as provided for in IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 23-G with a view to further strengthening and improving relevant mechanisms that handle information pertaining to nuclear or other radioactive material encountered out of regulatory control;
21. Encourages all Member States to take into account, as appropriate, the Nuclear Security Series publications, including the Nuclear Security Fundamentals, and to make use of them at their national discretion in their efforts to strengthen nuclear security;
22. Encourages the Agency to continue, in coordination with Member States, to actively fulfill its central and coordinating role in nuclear security activities among international organizations and initiatives, taking into account their respective mandates and memberships, and to work jointly, as appropriate, with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, welcomes regular IAEA Information Exchange Meetings and requests the Secretariat to keep Member States informed in this regard;
23. Encourages the Secretariat to promote international exchanges of experience, knowledge and good practices as regards ways to develop, foster and maintain a robust nuclear security culture compatible

with States' nuclear security regimes, and encourages the Secretariat to organize an international workshop on nuclear security culture;

24. Encourages the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States, to increase its assistance to States, upon request, on the development and consolidation of a nuclear security culture, including publishing guidance, providing training activities and offering related self-assessment and training materials and tools;

25. Encourages the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to continue its training and train-the-trainers programmes taking into account the IAEA Nuclear Security Series, and to adapt the courses as appropriate, within its mandate, to meet the needs of Member States;

26. Encourages ongoing initiatives of Member States, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to further enhance nuclear security culture, through the development of skills and knowledge of personnel, dialogue and cooperation with the nuclear industry as well as international and regional networks, as appropriate, including through centres of excellence, the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) and the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN), and requests the Secretariat to continue to report to the Board of Governors on its activities in this respect;

27. Takes note of the initiative by the Secretariat and Member States to develop and establish the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre at Seibersdorf to complement the activities of Member States' Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs), where relevant and while avoiding duplication and overlap, encourages the Secretariat, in close consultations with Member States, to consider all aspects, including planning for financial resources, related to the long-term sustainability of the Centre and asks the Secretariat to keep Member States informed of progress made;

28. Recognizes and supports the Agency's continuing work to assist, upon request, States' efforts to establish effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, to fulfil their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1540 and 2325, provided that the requests are within the scope of the Agency's statutory responsibilities;

29. Recognizes and supports the Agency's continuing work to assist, upon request, States' efforts to ensure the security of their nuclear and other radioactive material, including assistance in the implementation of Agency Nuclear Security Fundamentals and Recommendations when radioactive material is supplied by the Agency and takes note of the 2022 International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;

30. Encourages States to make further use of assistance in the field of nuclear security, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs), and similarly encourages States in a position to do so to make available such assistance;

31. Encourages the Secretariat to assist Member States, upon request, in the development of implementation strategies of their INSSPs in close consultation with the concerned Member State;

32. Requests the Secretariat to further develop, in close consultation with Member States, a voluntary mechanism to match Member States' requests for assistance with other Member States' offers of assistance, and highlighting, in cooperation with the recipient State, the most urgent needs for assistance, with due regard to the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security and asks the Secretariat to keep Member States informed of progress made in this regard;

33. Calls upon the Agency to support continued dialogue on the security of radioactive sources and disused radioactive sources, and to promote research and development in this field;

34. Calls upon the Agency, within its mandate, to inform Member States of nuclear and radiation technology options which are technically feasible, economically viable and sustainable, while respecting Member States' choices in nuclear technologies;
35. Encourages all Member States to make political commitments to the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and its Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources, and to implement these, as appropriate, in order to maintain effective safety and security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle, and requests the Secretariat to continue supporting Member States in this regard;
36. Calls upon all Member States to ensure that there is adequate provision for safe and secure storage and disposition pathways for disused radioactive sealed sources so that such sources within their territories remain under regulatory control, and further encourages all Member States to develop arrangements, as practicable, to permit the return of disused sources to the supplier States or consider other options including the reuse or recycling of sources whenever possible;
37. Calls upon all States to improve and sustain, based on national security threat assessments, their national capabilities to prevent, detect, deter and respond to illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material throughout their territories and to meet their relevant international obligations, and calls upon those States in a position to do so to work to enhance international partnerships and capacity building in this regard;
38. Encourages Member States to conduct national and regional exercises, where appropriate, to strengthen their capacities to prepare and respond to a nuclear security event involving nuclear or other radioactive material;
39. Notes the utility of the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) as a voluntary mechanism for the international exchange of information on incidents and illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material, encourages the Agency to further facilitate, including through designated Points of Contact, the timely exchange of information including through secured electronic access to information contained in the ITDB, and encourages all States to join and participate actively in the ITDB programme in support of their national efforts to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear and other radioactive materials that may have fallen out of regulatory control;
40. Calls upon States to continue efforts on their territory to recover and secure nuclear and other radioactive material that has fallen out of regulatory control;
41. Calls upon all Member States to continue to take appropriate steps, consistent with the national legislation and regulation, to prevent, detect, and protect against insider threats at nuclear facilities, and calls upon the Secretariat to advise Member States, upon request, on taking further preventive and protective measures against insider threats to enhance nuclear security, including through the Use of Nuclear Material Accounting and Control for Nuclear Security Purposes at Facilities (IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 25-G);
42. Calls upon all Member States to continue to take appropriate steps, consistent with the national legislation and regulation, to prevent, detect, and protect against insider threats at facilities using radioactive sources, and during transport;
43. Notes the Agency's efforts to raise awareness of the threat of cyber-attacks, and their potential impact on nuclear security, encourages States to take effective security measures against such attacks, and encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to strengthen computer security, to improve international cooperation, to bring together experts and policy-makers to promote the exchange of information and experiences, to develop appropriate guidance and to assist Member States, upon request,

in this area by providing training courses and hosting further expert meetings specific to the computer security of nuclear facilities;

44. Welcomes the Agency's work of promotion and support in the field of nuclear forensics, including through the development of guidance, further requests the Secretariat to assist interested Member States, upon their request, through the provision of education and training, and encourages Member States to make available experts, to share experiences, knowledge and good practices, in nuclear forensics with due regard to the principle of protection of sensitive information, and, if they have not yet done so, to consider establishing, where practical, national nuclear material databases or national nuclear forensics libraries;

45. Encourages the Agency to continue to provide, upon request, technical assistance to Member States hosting major public events, and to share, on a voluntary basis, good practices and lessons learned after such events, as appropriate;

46. Requests the Secretariat to continue the implementation of and to report on the Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) in the field of nuclear security and to provide further information in this respect;

47. Encourages the Member States concerned, on a voluntary basis, to further minimize highly enriched uranium (HEU) in civilian stocks and use low enriched uranium (LEU) where technically and economically feasible;

48. Encourages Member States to voluntarily use, and make available experts to the Agency to carry out, the Agency's nuclear security advisory services for exchanges of views and advice on nuclear security measures, welcomes the increased recognition of the value of IPPAS (International Physical Protection Advisory Service), INSServ (International Nuclear Security Advisory Service) and INSSP missions by Member States, and notes with appreciation the organization by the Agency of meetings, to allow interested Member States to share experience and lessons learned, with due regard to the principle of confidentiality, and to make recommendations for improvements to these missions;

49. Requests the Secretariat to continue to strengthen its internal planning and results-based management within its mandate and to improve, where appropriate, measures of effectiveness for its nuclear security programme, and to keep Member States updated and informed on implementation in this regard in order to maintain overall oversight by Member States, including through the Programme and Budget;

50. Requests the Secretariat to promote workforce diversity, including gender equality and geographical diversity, in the context of its nuclear security activities, and encourages Member States to establish an inclusive workforce within their national nuclear security regimes, including ensuring equal access to education and training;

51. Encourages the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to continue to develop and promote self-assessment methodologies and approaches that are based on Nuclear Security Series documents and can be used by Member States on a voluntary basis to ensure effective and sustainable national nuclear security infrastructure;

52. Encourages Member States to make use of the IAEA Nuclear Security Information Management System (NUSIMS), on a voluntary basis;

53. 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;

54. Requests the Director General to submit an annual Nuclear Security Report to the General Conference at its sixty-sixth (2022) regular session on activities undertaken by the Agency in the area of nuclear security, and on external users of the ITDB and on past and planned activities of educational, training and collaborative networks, as well as highlighting significant accomplishments of the previous year within the framework of the Nuclear Security Plan and indicating programmatic goals and priorities for the year to come; and

55. Requests the Secretariat to implement the actions called for in this resolution in a prioritized manner within available resources.