



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the the International Conference on Nuclear Security Vienna, 10-14 February 2020

Excellencies,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey§, the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia.
2. The EU and its Member States thank the Secretariat for organising this major event and particularly the co-presidents of the Conference their Excellencies from Panama and Romania and their representatives for their valuable work and welcome the Ministerial Declaration which has been adopted. We also thank the Programme Committee and its Co-chairs from Bulgaria and Egypt for their preparations.
3. We assure you of our full support in making this Conference a success. We will endeavour to ensure that its results contribute to enhancing the IAEA's work in this field in the years to come.

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4. The EU and its MS reaffirm the basic principle that responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. We underline that bilateral, regional and international cooperation can strengthen nuclear security, and strongly support, the central role of the IAEA in facilitating and coordinating such cooperation. We consider that strengthening nuclear security contributes to ensuring the protection of people and the environment and that nuclear security remains a crucial element in sustaining the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
5. The EU Member States are committed to continue strengthening nuclear security especially through the implementation of both national security measures and international cooperation. We welcome advances made by IAEA Member States in developing and enhancing their national nuclear security regimes and welcome the positive impact of the Agency's increasing assistance in this regard. We have made significant progress but we also note that much more work needs to be done – including responding to the evolving challenges and threats to nuclear security. We are also deeply concerned with the threats to computer based systems and cyber-attacks at nuclear related facilities. To that end, we highlight the importance of information and computer security, of the commitment to combat illicit trafficking, including

§ Candidate country

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

through voluntary information sharing, and the use of the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, as well as the need to address interfaces between safety and security.

6. The EU and its Member States underline the importance for all States to become Parties to and fully implement provisions of the relevant treaties, such as the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. .. We also strongly encourage the use of other international instruments such as the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance documents.
7. All EU Member States, as well as Euratom, are Parties to the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We continue to promote its universalization and effective implementation, including through our support for the nuclear security activities implemented under IAEA 2018-2021 Nuclear Security Plan.
8. We underline the need for sustainable and sufficient funding for the IAEA's nuclear security work, including increasingly from the Regular Budget. The EU and its Member States are the second largest donor to the voluntary instrument for nuclear security activities, the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, with EU contributions alone amounting to more than EUR 50 million for the period of 2009-2019 provided to the IAEA through 7 consecutive Council Decisions in support of the IAEA activities in third countries in the area of nuclear security.
9. In addition, with Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1939 and a budget of nearly five million euros the European Union supports the universalisation and the effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), which is a key element of the global nuclear security and counter-terrorism architecture.
10. The EU and its Member States continue to support and are actively involved in the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in all areas: nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation.. We reiterate our commitment to this Initiative and its mission to strengthen global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism.
11. The EU Nuclear Security Training Centre for detection and response to illicit acts with nuclear and other radioactive materials operated by the European Commission Joint Research Centre has been fully operational since 2013 and has provided ever since an important technical support also to the IAEA in the field of nuclear detection and forensics, including related trainings.
12. The EU Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear risk mitigation Centers of Excellence (CBRN CoE) is a worldwide capacity building programme, gathering 61 partner countries grouped around 8 regions. The CBRN CoE aim to mitigate risks related to CBRN materials, strengthen partner countries' preparedness, and nurture security culture and governance at national and regional levels. The budget for the initiative for the 10 –year period starting in 2010 amounts to EUR 250 million.
13. Furthermore we underline the importance of UNSC Resolutions 1540 and 2325. The EU is gravely concerned about the risk posed by state or non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems. These resolutions remain a key part of the international non-proliferation architecture in this regard. We have provided substantial political and financial support for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 including through providing technical assistance.

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14. In conclusion, let me assure you that the European Union and its Member States remain strongly committed and well prepared to contribute in a tangible and constructive way, to the IAEA's work on nuclear security, and to continue to work actively in order to strengthen international co-operation to advance nuclear security worldwide.

Thank you.