



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 9 – 13 September 2019
Agenda item 4: Nuclear Security Report 2019**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and San Marino.
2. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the acting Director General for the Nuclear Security Report 2019 as contained in GOV/2019/31-GC(63)/10, the Deputy Director General for his presentation, and Director Raja Adnan for his technical briefing on 27 August.
3. The reporting period (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019) has been a key period for preparing the important forthcoming events on nuclear security, particularly the International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2020 (ICONS 2020), with a view to asserting the central role of the IAEA in facilitating, and coordinating international cooperation on nuclear security and providing assistance in capacity building to Member States.
4. We welcome the fact that communication on the importance of Nuclear Security has been strengthened in the last year and will continue to be one of the priorities for the Agency for the upcoming year.
5. The EU and its Member States are willing to engage with all IAEA Member States to developing a Ministerial Declaration for adoption by the 2020 Conference, which will highlight the importance of nuclear security, supports the IAEA's central international role, and demonstrates high level commitment by Member States to building strong nuclear security regimes as a contribution to international peace, security and development. Through our active participation in the equally important technical and scientific work of the Conference we also will work towards the practical fulfilment of the Ministerial Declaration's objectives.
6. The EU and its Member States also emphasize the importance of IAEA activities aimed at achieving the universalisation of the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and we would like to underline that EU is fully committed

[§] 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.

to working with other Parties and the Secretariat in the preparation of the forthcoming review meeting in 2021. To this end, we organised a workshop in Vienna in January 2019 dedicated to sharing experience among EU Member States on how information is provided to the IAEA under Article 14.1 and on the possibility of enhancing the information provided by EU Member States under this Article.

Madam Chair,

7. The EU reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. All States have the responsibility to take necessary measures to prevent, detect and respond to criminal and unauthorized activities involving nuclear and other radioactive material, as well as measures to protect sensitive nuclear knowledge and information.
8. The EU and its Member States strongly support the work of the Agency's Nuclear Security Programme. Its work plays an important role in assisting Member States to address nuclear security challenges and find the best ways of fulfilling our strong commitments to the strengthening of the international nuclear security framework.
9. The Nuclear Security Report 2019 highlights the positive role that Nuclear Security plays in sustaining access to the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. We particularly appreciate the systematic and comprehensive approach applied by the Agency to assist Member States in enhancing their nuclear security regimes, including through the development and implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP) and the provision of Advisory services (IPPAS and INSSERV missions). We encourage Member States to make use of IAEA advisory services, regardless of the level of development of their domestic nuclear security regimes, and to make national experts available to the Agency to undertake future missions.
10. We encourage the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with Member States, ways to further improve the process of matching extra-budgetary contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund with requests for assistance from Member States including those identified through the INSSP process and to present its ideas to Member States in due course.
11. We also would like to re-emphasise the EU's support for the majority of the findings and recommendations of the recent OIOS evaluation of the Agency's work relating to Material Outside of Regulatory Control Section, many of which are applicable to the Nuclear Security Division as a whole. We note that the Secretariat has accepted all these recommendations, has begun work to implement them, and we would welcome an update in due course.
12. The EU and its Member States also welcome the additional information provided on strengthening the results based approach and internal co-ordination between the departments of the Agency, including the Division of Nuclear Security.
13. The EU underlines the need for timely, reliable and sufficient resources for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities, including from the Nuclear Security Fund and Regular Budget. The EU encourages further Member States to contribute to the Nuclear Security Fund. Furthermore, the EU has contributed more than € 24 million to the establishment and the secure management of the LEU Bank under the control of the IAEA. The financial contribution of over € 4 million aims to ensure that nuclear fuel is supplied in a secure and safe manner and to help the IAEA guarantee the security and safety of LEU, both during transport from procurement to supply, and during storage at the Bank's site.

14. Nuclear security continues to face evolving challenges, including threats related to computer security. The EU and its Member States underline the need to recognize these potential evolving threats as well as the risks of abuse of emerging technologies, such as cyber-attacks. At the same time the EU and its MS acknowledge that current and emerging technologies can also present opportunities to enhance nuclear security. Taking this into account, we stress the importance of the Agency's work in the field of computer security and emerging technologies, including the provision of relevant guidance.
15. We also highlight the importance of the Agency's work in providing assistance to Member States hosting major public events. To this end, we note with appreciation the priority given by the Secretariat to the nuclear security of major public events, and we continue to support the Agency's work in enhancing nuclear security culture as an essential element of nuclear security and encourage the Agency to explore, in cooperation with Member States, ways to manage the interfaces between nuclear security and safety in a mutually supportive manner. In this regard, we note the efforts being undertaken.
16. EU Member States reaffirm their commitment to improve the security of radioactive sources and to that end seek to ensure effective management of Disused Radioactive Sources, which is focused on the establishment of comprehensive and sustainable national strategies. The EU and its Members States note with appreciation the recent intensification of the Agency's training courses on security of radioactive sources and assistance of Member States with the secure management of disused sources. We call upon all Member States to make a political commitment to implement the Code of Conduct and encourage them to put in place appropriate systems of accounting and control.

Madam Chair,

17. We would like to commend the Agency for its continued work on the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB). The ITDB is a valuable mechanism, which enhances nuclear security globally. We urge all Member States to voluntarily submit relevant information to the ITDB.
18. We strongly support continued cooperation and partnership between the IAEA and other international organisations and initiatives such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the G7 Global Partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction and INTERPOL to deliver the most effective training, exercising and peer to peer sharing of experience to Member States upon request. We call on the IAEA to strengthen its coordinating role in this regard in order to ensure that all relevant organisations and initiatives active in the nuclear security area work in an effective and efficient manner and avoid overlap and duplication.
19. With these comments, Madam Chair, the EU takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2019 as contained in GOV/2019/31.

Thank you, Madam Chair.