

## **Belgium**

### **Statement at the 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism**

(Tokyo, June 1-2, 2017)

Mr Chair,

Please allow me to sincerely thank Japan for hosting the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative and for its impeccable organization. We also express our gratitude to the two co-chairs and to the outgoing Implementation and Assessment Group Coordinator. We look forward to cooperating with his successor. We fully associate ourselves with the statement to be delivered by the EU.

Mr Chair,

As we speak, the international Coalition against ISIL is making tangible progress in reducing the zones of influence of this terrorist group in Syria and Iraq. But the threat of terrorism at large will remain even after the destruction of the so-called “Caliphate”. And the resolve of non-state actors to acquire and use CBRN weapons will not subside.

Concerted international action remains more than ever relevant and the work of the Global Initiative is a case in point. The value of the Global Initiative lies in its practical nature and hands-on approach.

Through interaction at the technical level and the conduct of joint exercises we enhance our mutual understanding of the challenges we are facing and we share the best practices to deal with them. Our activities are thus contributing to the global effort to enhance Nuclear Security.

The International Atomic Energy Agency should be at the heart of the international cooperation in this field, as it provides an open and transparent platform, accessible for all.

The Agency’s assistance program has already strengthened Nuclear Security in a number of countries. Belgium is proud to have supported this achievement through a voluntary contribution, of 2 million USD in total since 2010, to the Nuclear Security Fund.

Belgium has strengthened its own Nuclear Security architecture, thanks to legislative action, regulatory measures and the acceptance of peer review.

After the temporary implementation of an interim solution mobilizing personnel from our Armed Forces, we have created a Directorate within our police force to ensure a permanent armed response capacity at nuclear sites.

Progress on minimizing the use of Highly Enriched Uranium continues. The Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK-CEN is spearheading an international effort to develop and qualify Low Enriched Uranium fuels for high performance research reactors.

Mr Chair,

In the ever evolving security environment we must remain vigilant for new threats and challenges, such as cybersecurity. An effective Nuclear Security system constitutes our safeguard to protect the benefits of nuclear power and technology.