

10th GICNT Plenary Meeting
Tokyo, Japan
1-2 June 2017

Mr Chairman,
Co-Chair representatives,

Let me first thank the Government of Japan for the warm hospitality in hosting this plenary meeting and congratulate the representatives of USA and Russian Federation on many years of successful co-chairing of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. I would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands as well, for successfully coordinating the IAG for the past two years.

State of the world today makes it imperative that we put fight against terrorism, nuclear and radiological terrorism included, at the top of our security priorities list. Republic of Croatia is a party to and active participant in all the major international formal and informal agreements and initiatives of this field.

As a participant in the GICNT, Croatia takes part in two projects: *Nuclear Security Detection Architecture* and *Second Line of Defence*, the latter of which is now known as the *Nuclear Smuggling Detection and Deterrence Program (NSDD)*.

In order to strengthen our national system of protection against acts of nuclear and radiological terrorism, we participate in relevant thematic exercises, workshops and meetings in our region and globally, as well as organise such events on our own.

We try to stay prepared and build our capacity to respond to potential terrorist threats before they occur, through detection and prevention, and we do this by staying acquainted with the current trends in global terrorism activities as well as present and future developments in the science and technology field. In this, the GICNT plays an indispensable role.

With the beginning of the refugee crisis in Europe in 2015 and the opening of the so-called Balkan Route, which connects countries of the MENA region with Western and Northern Europe, Europe as a whole has been faced with one of the greatest human tragedies in its modern history. Unfortunately with it came an increased threat of terrorism.

The period of most intense impact of the wave of refugees traversing the Balkan Route represented an immense challenge to all the administrative and human resources of Croatia dealing with identification of potential terrorists who may wished to take advantage of this catastrophic situation for their own needs.

The challenge of dealing with the many different aspects of the European migrant crisis of 2015 has been extremely valuable in plenty of ways, but when it comes to nuclear and radiological terrorism, it demonstrated the enormous importance preparedness and prevention have in our national systems.

During this period, we have put a lot of effort to properly equip our border crossings with relevant detection equipment, which eventually resulted in a successful prevention of smuggling of radioactive material at one of our border posts in September 2016.

Given this recent experience, Republic of Croatia will continue to invest efforts to strengthen its national capacities and update its knowledge and awareness of the possible threats coming from global nuclear and radiological terrorism.

In this endeavour, the cooperation with partner nations within different multilateral fora dealing with this and related topics is paramount.

As a global initiative which is aimed at fostering international cooperation with a goal to prevent terrorists from acquiring, transporting, or using nuclear materials or radioactive substances, deter hostile actions against nuclear facilities, and respond to incidents involving the use of radiological or nuclear materials, the GICNT has a very prominent role to play, and will have Croatia's full support.

Thank you.