



GICNT

PLENARY MEETING, TOKYO,

1-2 JUNE 2017



FRANCE - National statement

On behalf of the French delegation, I would like to thank Japan for hosting this plenary meeting.

Nuclear security issues and the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism have grown in importance over the last years. The Nuclear Security Summit process and the last IAEA international conference on nuclear security illustrate growing awareness of the international community. France supports the central role of the IAEA in the international architecture. One of the great successes of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit was the entry into force of the CPPNM-A to which France contributed actively. France carried out 150 diplomatic demarches to promote the universalization and implementation of the amended CPPNM and the ICSANT. Since the Washington NSS and the International conference on nuclear security, coordination has been pursued, including through the Nuclear security contact group.

UNSCR 1540 remains a crucial instrument in the efforts to combat proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, as well as their potential acquisition by non-state actors. We welcome the adoption of UNSCR 2325 and encourage all States to work towards its full implementation.

The contribution of the GICNT has been increasingly recognized and commended by the international community. An action plan was adopted in support of the initiative at the NSS in Washington and we encourage its implementation to ensure this political momentum. Since 2006, the GICNT has undertaken a tremendous work to increase capabilities to prevent, detect and respond to acts of nuclear or radiological terrorism and to share experience and lessons learned between partner nations. In particular, we would like to commend the role played by the United States and the Russian Federation as co-chairs, the Netherlands as IAG coordinator and all the working group chairs. We believe that the effectiveness of the GICNT

is based on its technical nature, which has to remain preserved. International technical cooperation is essential to develop capabilities and to combat nuclear terrorism. In this regard, the Global Initiative is a dynamic forum, able to adapt to evolving challenges and develop new areas of cooperation such as exercises or legal implementation of international obligations.

Our country has been actively committed to the work of the GICNT since the launch of the Initiative. French high-level experts regularly contribute to technical meetings, including the latest workshops organized in 2017. In particular, we delivered a presentation in Ispra on detection architecture models and gave a real-time demonstration of the model and capacities implemented and developed by France. We are now considering the possibility of organizing a new event in France in the forthcoming years.

With 58 nuclear reactors, and being confronted to a serious terrorist threat, France considers nuclear security as a national priority and this is reflected in our engagement at the international level. Our country has experienced several terrorist attacks over the last years and seriously takes into account the CBRN terrorist threat. We are reinforcing our capabilities to prevent CBRN attacks but also to increase our crisis management capabilities. We have adapted our legislative and institutional framework to face nuclear security challenges more efficiently. A law on the use of drones was adopted last October by the French Parliament. A joint specialized command of nuclear security forces (CoSSeN) was established in 2016 to coordinate all comprehensive measures taken by the Ministry of Interior, aimed at protecting nuclear facilities and nuclear materials against any kind of malevolent act. Furthermore, the French legal corpus on the security of radioactive sources was complemented in 2016 with the adoption of additions to the existing framework which are due to enter into force in 2017. Bilaterally we signed in April 2017 a joint statement with Jordan on nuclear security to increase our cooperation.

Among the main nuclear security challenges to be addressed, France attaches great importance to the security of radioactive sources. Terrorist organizations have demonstrated their interest in diverting such materials to make dirty bombs. That is why we presented a joint statement at the last NSS which was co-sponsored by 28 States and Interpol. We reopened this statement at the last International Nuclear security Conference to all IAEA Member States and we encourage partner nations to join this initiative. We also welcome the

adoption of a resolution, supported by 37 countries, during the 71st UN General Assembly. We believe the GICNT has a significant role to play and we encourage the Initiative to further raise awareness and develop experience-sharing and capacity-building on such a crucial challenge.

I would like to conclude by thanking again Japan for hosting this meeting and by expressing France's full commitment to the GICNT./.