

## Georgian National Statement at GICNT

Mr Chairman, excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here in Tokyo and address this notable audience as the representative of the Government of Georgia.

The GICNT truly makes valuable contributions to nuclear security. Throughout the years it has demonstrated a unique ability to bring together policy, as well as technical and operational experts to share models and best practices and enhance partners' capabilities to address nuclear security challenges.

In the contemporary world we face terrorist groups, which exploit security vulnerabilities of modern days against us, and some of them have already demonstrated an acute interest in acquiring weapons of mass destruction to terrorize the world.

Georgia as a responsible member of the international community contributes to our common goal of ensuring nuclear security. Allow me briefly elaborate on steps Georgia has taken in recent years in this regard:

We passed the new "Law on Control on Military and Dual Use Items" that brought Georgia's legislation on strategic export control in line with the EU standards. At the same time, we adopted the new "Law on Radioactive Waste," and strengthened the state control over nuclear and radiation safety and security. Also, Georgia formed a new Agency for Radioactive Waste Management to operate both centralized storage and disposal facilities.

According to the agreement with International Atomic Energy Agency, we approved the 2015-2019 Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP), which constitutes one of the key documents for strengthening national comprehensive nuclear security regime according to the international standards, requirements and obligations.

By the decision of the Government of Georgia, the National CBRN Council was formed. The Council with active involvement of the EU, US and UNICRI, elaborated the National CBRN Threat Reduction Strategy in 2014, which has been adopted by the Government. Respectively, the CBRN National Action Plan 2015 – 2019 was adopted in March 2015.

Together with the Governments of Philippines and Morocco, the Georgian side, initiated the establishment of the UN Group of Friends on the CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance. The group promotes activities aimed at building capabilities between and among partner States, as well as promotes the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and subsequent relevant resolutions.

And perhaps the most importantly, as considered in the communiqué of the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit, in December 2015 we repatriated the high-enriched uranium with strong support of the US and IAEA. As a result, Georgia is nuclear-free state.

Dear colleagues,

The proliferation of WMD-related materials remains a subject of serious concern for Georgia, taking into account the close proximity to the region posing a high risk of proliferation.

In recent years, we had several recorded attempts of smuggling nuclear and radioactive materials via Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskinali regions, which are currently outside of control of the central authorities. Fortunately, these illegal activities were duly prevented by Georgian law enforcement agencies. However, these cases further amplify the sense of insecurity. In the absence of the international presence on those uncontrolled territories of Georgia, it has become virtually impossible to conduct any type of verification activities on the ground. As a result, the risk of proliferation of the WMD-related materials in and from these regions has increased significantly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude my statement, let me express our support for the continued efforts of the GICNT partners to provide opportunities for dialogue and collaboration towards global efforts to combat nuclear terrorism.

I thank you.