

Statement – A. Vincze – Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority

GICNT Plenary, 2 June 2017, Tokio, Japan

Dear Plenary Participants

Nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious threats to international security.

This growing threat can only be addressed by effective and efficient measures aimed at strengthening nuclear security.

The primary responsibility for nuclear security lies with individual states, at the same time, international cooperation can also make an important contribution to preventing nuclear terrorists in acquiring nuclear material or using it.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has a central and coordinating role in this area however, other initiatives such as the GICNT also have an important role to play.

During its more than ten years of existence GICNT has proved to be an effective forum that can give real added value to the other existing forms of international co-operation in fighting nuclear terrorism.

Therefore Hungary highly values the efforts of the Global Initiative and takes part actively in its work.

Our strong commitment to the success of the realization of GICNT's goals and Hungary's active involvement to make the global nuclear security architecture stronger motivated us when we decided to host the GICNT Nuclear Forensics Working Group Workshop and Tabletop Exercise "Csodaszarvas/Mystic Deer" in 2014.

The event proved to be extremely useful as it brought together nuclear forensics and technical experts with law enforcement and counter terrorism specialists and policy makers. The workshop and tabletop exercise not only helped to deepen the international co-operation but contributed to improving the co-ordination amongst our national agencies as well.

This GICNT event was hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Energy Research Centre (MTA EK) in Budapest, Hungary from October 14-16, 2014.

There were 65 attendees including policymakers, technical experts, and law enforcement officials representing 23 countries and the IAEA, INTERPOL, FBI and European Commission

The workshop included multiple presentations, panel discussion, live demonstration, and tabletop exercise with a realistic scenario involving a Radiological Exposure Device hidden by a terrorist organization in a popular public cafeteria.

The Workshop participants Identified many Best Practices in areas such as "Rules of Evidence", "Crime scene management", "Leadership Questions & Expectation Management" as well as "National Security Tools".

The event greatly contributed to the enhancement of the effective cooperation between traditional and nuclear forensic, by raising awareness of the specialty and importance of nuclear forensic support in the domestic forensic community as well as in other entities involved in responding to nuclear security events.

As a result our national forensic capabilities based on the Nuclear Forensic Laboratory of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences' Energy Research Centre could be further strengthened and development of our national nuclear forensic library had been continued. These efforts lead to the formal recognition of our Nuclear Forensic Laboratory as an IAEA Collaborating Centre for Nuclear Forensics.

In addition to the achievements in nuclear forensics, the workshop gave momentum to the multiagency efforts aimed at further developing the national level contingency plan for responding to nuclear security events by significantly extending relationships and co-operations within the country in the field of nuclear security and nuclear forensics.

Building on the best practices identified during the workshop a New Governmental Decree on response actions in connection with the missing, found or seized nuclear and other radioactive materials could be finalized and put into power by the end of 2015.

To identify the gaps in cooperation and coordination at the operational level, a Nuclear Security Working Group was established at the beginning of 2016 with all responsible authorities and institutions involved in responding to and mitigation of nuclear security events.

We have started to organize virtual Table Top Exercises and National Field Exercises in the field of nuclear security and nuclear forensics following lessons learnt from GICNT events.

Dear Colleagues,

During the New Delhi IAG meeting in India, we have shown our commitment to the importance of the security of radioactive material as an integral part of the nuclear security regime and introduced our national framework to the prevention, detection of and response to security events involving radioactive material.

In this content we welcomed the non-paper developed by the US and Argentina on Radioactive Source Security in the GICNT and we agree to the outlined areas the GICNT may play a role in the future and strongly support the integration of radiological security into the GICNT program of work.

In this context, I am in a position to announce Hungary's commitment and intention to host a workshop and exercise on radioactive source security in March/April 2018, Budapest in cooperation by the MFA, HAEA and MTA EK.

The proposed three day workshop will focus on developing or strengthening radiological material security and theft response capabilities in order to prevent radiological terrorism. The workshop will cover the comprehensive range of functions and capabilities aimed at securing radiological material, detecting acts of radiological material theft, and the immediate response actions to that theft.

Thank you