

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM

PLENARY SESSION – TOKYO, JAPAN

1-2 JUNE 2017

ITALY

Chair,

Co-Chairs,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first thank Japan for hosting this Plenary Session. I wish also to join colleagues in condemning the recent heinous terrorist attack in Afghanistan and in extending condolences to the Government and people of Afghanistan.

Italy fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I wish to make the following remarks on my national capacity.

Italy recognizes the vital role of international cooperation in preventing, detecting and responding to nuclear terrorism. For this reason, we have strongly supported the GICNT and shared its mission since its launch in 2006.

Looking ahead, we are convinced that the implementation of the extensive work plans finalized by the Implementation and Assessment Group for the next two years will considerably enhance our capacity to act together in front of nuclear security challenges. Among the identified priorities, we specially value the strengthening of radiological security.

Italy attaches the utmost importance to the objective of reinforcing the international nuclear security framework. We have been an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit process, and we are currently supporting the IAEA in its endeavor to bring forward its legacy.

In this context, we regularly finance the International School on Nuclear Security jointly run by the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. The School is highly valued by developing and emerging countries as it trains professionals on the international legal framework, raising awareness on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material.

Italy welcomes the reinforcement of the international legal framework on nuclear security through the entry into force in May 2016 of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), which Italy ratified in 2015. Italy also welcomes the increasing number of ratifications of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), which we ratified last year.

The Global Initiative is increasing its relevance in a world where terrorism is constantly evolving and the threat of terrorist nuclear or radiological attack may grow. Against this background, Italy has been actively promoting GICNT activities, as done last November by hosting in Rome the annual session of the Nuclear Forensic Working Group (NFWG), and remains strongly committed to contribute to advancing aims and goals of the Global Initiative.

Thank you