

GICNT National Statement - Lithuania

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address the GICNT Plenary Meeting. We commend and express our appreciation to Ambassador Nederlof and to the Government of the Netherlands on a very successful coordination of the Implementation and Assessment Group activities over the past two years.

Lithuania is proud to have contributed to the concerted efforts of the international community in fortifying global nuclear security architecture that is all-inclusive, built on international standards, transparent in implementation on all levels, and resulting in a significant decline in global stocks of the nuclear weapon-usable materials. We are committed to fostering a peaceful and stable international environment by reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism and strengthening nuclear security.

The Nuclear Security Summit process has highlighted a vital need to secure nuclear materials and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism and proliferation. Lithuania hopes that the momentum achieved by the NSS can be sustained and accelerated through our joint GICNT endeavor. In this respect, Lithuania is and will remain a strong supporter of the main objectives of the Nuclear Security Summit process and the five Action Plans adopted by the NSS community. The Action Plan for the GICNT is of a particular importance and relevance in this regard, as it comprehensively describes measures that partner nations advocate the GICNT to pursue in order to appropriately promote and advance nuclear security through its decision-making bodies. We hope that the Action Plan will be implemented in its entirety.

Lithuania has contributed to the work of the GICNT in the past – specifically, to its Nuclear Forensics Working Group (NFWG), which has drafted an important document, entitled “Exchanging Nuclear Forensics Information: Benefits, Challenges and Resources”. It is a GICNT best practices document that aims to increase awareness of the benefits and challenges of exchanging nuclear forensics information associated with a nuclear security event and identifies potential mechanisms for enabling information exchange. Lithuanian Nuclear Security Center of Excellence (NSCOE) hosted a nuclear forensics workshop (April 2014) to review this document, and it was subsequently endorsed at the June 2015 Plenary Meeting as an official GICNT product. It was the first GICNT event, hosted by Lithuania.

Lithuania intends to add continuously to the international efforts in fighting terrorism including a nuclear one. NSCOE is among the most important instruments in this regard, as it further develops training programs on nuclear security and personnel capability development and has already become an important regional nuclear security training hub. The Centre is further expanding its activities with multiple training events for national and international participants. Productive cooperation network has been established between the NSCOE and the international organizations. We hope this cooperation will deepen, as the NSCOE continues with its public awareness raising efforts on nuclear security measures and their impact to the national security, and promotion of robust nuclear security culture and integrity.

We are keen to further employ and expand regional potential of the Lithuanian Nuclear Security Center of Excellence as a full-scale capacity-building and training institution in prevention,

detection, response, and investigation of nuclear and radiological smuggling, and also as the fundamental Lithuanian contribution to the objectives of the GICNT.

We foster close cooperation with this important voluntary international partnership. We also remain committed to seeking new ways and identifying new opportunities for the Lithuanian institutional capacity to be employed meaningfully - to the Working Group activities in 2017-2019 Work Plan of the GICNT and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.

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