

STATEMENT BY THE NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE
GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM
2017 PLENARY MEETING
1-2 June, Tokyo

I would like to thank the GICNT co-chairs and leadership group for bringing this meeting together, and our Japanese hosts for the excellent meeting arrangements.

New Zealand recognises the risk posed by terrorists accessing nuclear or radiological material and deploying it in terrorist attacks. We are committed to working with other states and international organisations to keep nuclear and radioactive material secure and out of the hands of terrorists.

Since the last GICNT plenary meeting, New Zealand has strengthened domestic measures for protecting nuclear material through a new legislative framework governing radiation safety, which reflects international best practice. We have benefitted from advice provided by a mission from the IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service and plan to host a follow-up mission in the future.

Last year New Zealand ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. We have also implemented a Code of Practice for the Security of Radioactive Material.

New Zealand strongly endorses international cooperation to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. We have participated in the Nuclear Security Summit process which concluded last year, and the IAEA's Nuclear Security Conference held last December. We appreciate the way in which GICNT has been able to complement and support these other international processes.

New Zealand has continued to contribute to GICNT projects, including most recently to Australia's workshop last year on international communications in the event of an emergency involving the threat or use of radioactive materials in a terrorist attack. We also continue to contribute financially to nuclear security initiatives being undertaken by the US Department of Energy in various parts of the world. In addition, New Zealand is supporting the development of local capability to manage radioactive materials in the Pacific Island region and provides regular funding to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund.

New Zealand also participates in exercises taking place under the Proliferation Security Initiative. These exercises have been very useful in improving New Zealand's readiness to respond to potential illicit shipments of nuclear materials.

New Zealand is committed to working with GICNT partners to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. We welcome the opportunity at this meeting to decide on the next steps in this programme of work, and to further strengthen the practical contribution which GICNT is making to nuclear security.