

**Statement by Khalil Hashmi, Director General (Disarmament), MFA
Head of Pakistan Delegation
GICNT Plenary Meeting**

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On behalf of Pakistan delegation, I wish to thank the Government of Japan for hosting the 2017 GICNT plenary meeting.

We appreciate the leadership and contribution of the Russian Federation and the United States, as co-chairs, the Netherlands as the IAG Coordinator and chairs of the three Working Groups to the work of GICNT.

Pakistan shares concerns over the malicious use of nuclear materials and their devastating social, economic as well as environmental consequences. We therefore have actively engaged in several mechanisms and processes including the Nuclear Security Summit process as well as the IAEA, among others, that seek to promote nuclear security.

Since 2007, Pakistan has partnered with GICNT and contributed to its deliberations and drafting of key documents. We consider GICNT as a voluntary platform in support of national plans, policies and procedures of its members to advance security of civilian nuclear materials and facilities. All states must ensure that nuclear and radioactive materials and relevant facilities are secured at all times in all places.

GICNT has played an important role in raising technical awareness, making available a menu of models for implementation, promoting exchange of experiences and good practices. These activities have helped strengthen national capacities and strategies in the areas of detection, forensics as well as response and mitigation.

We view these activities as useful for interested states to undertake steps consistent with relevant legal instruments, national legal frameworks and IAEA Nuclear Security Series guidance documents.

We see value in the development of a range of tools and modalities for capacity building, training and expertise. We have participated in and contributed to these activities. Pakistan considers nuclear security essentially a national responsibility as effective national steps ensure nuclear security internationally.

The IAEA has a central role in the global nuclear security architecture. Given its membership, expertise and competence, the Agency has a unique primacy in developing international nuclear security guidance, training, workshops and exercises. It has important coordinating and support functions as well in the field of nuclear security.

We consider GICNT as a useful complement to the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security architecture. It would be important to incorporate the IAEA nuclear security guidance and expertise into GICNT documents and activities.

As a responsible nuclear state, Pakistan takes nuclear security very seriously. We are fully aware that nuclear security is a continuous responsibility requiring constant vigilance and preparedness.

We have developed a comprehensive nuclear security regime in Pakistan. It is regularly reviewed and updated in the light of IAEA guidance documents, international best practices and experiences shared through GICNT.

Pakistan is party to important international instruments and conventions related to nuclear security i.e. the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) including its 2005 Amendment, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and the Convention on Assistance in case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

As part of its National Detection Architecture, Pakistan has deployed Radiation Monitoring Portals (RPMs) at several entry and exit points to deter, detect and prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Pakistan successfully implemented the National Nuclear Security Action Plan (NSAP) between 2006-2013, in collaboration with the IAEA. As part of this Plan, physical protection of nuclear medical centres, nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities has been upgraded. Further upgrades are underway.

Regulations on “Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (s) and Nuclear Installation(s)” and “Security of Sealed Radioactive Sources” are also under development. We have maintained a national register of radioactive sources for the last three decades. The register follows the principle of cradle-to-grave.

Pakistan has developed a robust Nuclear Emergency Management System (NEMS). The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) hosts a support unit to provide technical and scientific services during and after a nuclear security event and expert advice on these matters. The unit is equipped with related lab tools, equipment, software and expert support. We continue to participate in the IAEA’s Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB).

We conduct regular training courses in the area of physical protection, radiation safety and security, in partnership with the IAEA. In 2015, Pakistan established a Physical Protection Exterior Laboratory (PPEL). The National Institute of Safety and Security (NISAS) conducts regular training courses and workshops for professionals, technicians and managers in these areas.

Pakistan has established a Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security (PCENS) in 2012. The Centre has grown into a regional and international hub for nuclear security training. The Centre has state of the art facilities. It conducts specialized courses for the dedicated nuclear security force, with a focus on intelligence, counter-intelligence, Human

Reliability Programme (HRP), material control, accountancy and physical protection of nuclear materials including during transport.

The Centre has hosted several national, regional and international training courses, workshops and seminars in various disciplines of nuclear security. PCENS has trained over 22,000 persons as part of the Nuclear Security Force. In 2015, PCENS hosted the Annual Meeting of the International Network of Nuclear Security and Support Centers (NSSC). The meeting was attended by over 50 participants from 33 countries and was the first meeting that the IAEA held outside its headquarters in Vienna.

Pakistan fully supports effective controls and measures to secure nuclear facilities and materials. The role of technical assistance and capacity building is vital in synergizing between the requirements and capacities in the area of nuclear security.

Over the years, Pakistan has acquired considerable experience as well as expertise in the field of nuclear security. We are willing to offer assistance to interested states and in response to specific requests in this area. We are also considering the possibility of hosting a regional GICNT event in Pakistan in the future.

We look forward to remaining constructively engaged within GICNT and beyond in our collective efforts to promote nuclear security nationally as well as at a global level.
