

**National Statement of the Slovak Republic**  
**GICNT Plenary Meeting, Tokyo, June 1-2, 2017**

Dear GICNT Co-Chair representatives, dear IAG Coordinator Ambassador Nederlof, distinguished delegates...

Slovakia believes that the GICNT provides a valuable forum for partner nations to showcase the progress they have made in strengthening national capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to acts of nuclear or radiological terrorism and to share experience, models, and lessons learned with other partner nations.

The unique added value of the GICNT framework is that manages to bring together experience and expertise by creating communities of practitioners from below; integrate collective capabilities and resources; and provide the opportunity for nations to share information and expertise.

A strong and well-implemented international nuclear security regime benefits all. Radioactive fallout does not pay attention to international borders and neither do nuclear smugglers. Sabotage at a nuclear facility in one country would have environmental consequences for its neighbours. A nuclear crisis anywhere is a nuclear crisis everywhere. That is why we need broad international cooperation.

The universal ratification of the United Nations anti-terrorist conventions and protocols cannot be emphasised enough, as any gaps in this regard may prove to be catastrophically costly. Let me also underline the importance of effectively implementing these conventions. This applies also to the ICSANT and CPPNM and its amendment – both being cornerstones of the international effort to combat nuclear terrorism.

We commend the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM/A) in May, 2016. Its importance lies in its major impact on reducing the vulnerability of its state parties to nuclear terrorism.

Implementation of a strong and sustainable legal framework requires the provisions of the conventions to be implemented through national legislation. Such implementation enables countries to tailor laws and strengthen them, as appropriate, to help deter and successfully prosecute and adjudicate illicit acts.

We recognize that the GICNT's ongoing success is dependent upon the contributions of its partner nations and official observers to host, support development of, and participate in GICNT activities. We would like to highlight the following one:

Early this year in January, Slovakia was proud to host the "Vigilant Marmot" Legal Frameworks Workshop in Bratislava. Developed and implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Canada, the three-day workshop underlined the necessity of having a robust international legal framework in place.

The "Vigilant Marmot" workshop brought together 88 participants from 23 partner nations and 5 international organizations. The audience comprised prosecutors, judges; law enforcement and border security officials; lawyers and other legal experts whose duties include drafting legislation, and technical or regulatory experts who could assist in the development and/or modification of laws, regulations and criminal codes.

The event demonstrated value of not only reaching out internationally, but also at home: by raising awareness, fostering ties among experts from various domains, increasing mutual understanding, and thus eventually strengthening national capabilities, while contributing to GICNT trademark of building communities of experts from below.

Specifically, the workshop addressed challenges in adopting or updating national legal frameworks for nuclear security; highlighted obligations under international legal instruments against radiological and nuclear terrorism; and considered practical models for implementing these obligations.

In conclusion, Slovakia stands ready to further offer its national expertise, to harness its expertise and share it regionally, and to engage with interested partner nations. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is prepared to fulfil its coordinating role among national stakeholders, and act as an advocate for broader expert-level participation at GICNT workshops, trainings and exercises.

Thank you for your attention!