Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, Plenary Meeting, Tokyo, 1 June 2017

Sweden

Mr. Chairman,
Co-Chairs,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden fully adheres to the statement to be made by the representative of the European Union. In addition, we would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Japan for its generous hospitality in hosting this year’s plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

We would also like to thank our American and Russian co-hosts, as well as the IAG Coordinator and the chairs of the working groups for their excellent work.

Mr. Chairman,
Sweden has a long tradition of strong engagement in disarmament and non-proliferation and a commitment to multilateral approaches to meet the threats of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We will continue our active work to promote nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security.

The threat from non-state actors is real. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Sweden has recently resumed the role as one of the vice-chairs of the 1540 committee. It is important not to limit vigilance to items and materials but also to further discussions on Intangible Transfers of Technology as a factor behind acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

The Nuclear Security Summits served as an important platform to strengthen nuclear security. The GICNT continues to play an important role in furthering the work on nuclear security after the conclusion of the NSS
process. The IAEA has a central role to play and coordination with the IAEA remains important.

Nationally, Sweden has been active since the early 1990s in non-proliferation and nuclear security cooperation with states in Eastern Europe, including the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Many of these activities relate to the goals and principles of the GICNT and concern specifically the combating of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and other measures related to safeguards implementation and physical protection of nuclear facilities. We continue to stay engaged in this area.

Sweden has found it effective to work within the framework of the GICNT, as well as other international fora such as the Global Partnership to identify project needs and projects partners. Sweden has participated in the IAG activities, with a particular focus on nuclear forensics and response and mitigation. An important area, that merits to be highlighted further in the working group on response and mitigation, is how to prioritize after an accident have occurred. In this regard, we welcome the initiative by the UK to organize a workshop on this topic next year.

Sweden attaches great importance to the GICNT. Through this cooperation we have seen progress in many areas at national and international levels which would have been difficult without mutual sharing of knowledge and experience. We look forward to continue working with partners within the GICNT in order to advance nuclear security and prevent nuclear terrorism.

Thank you.