



2017 Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)

Tokyo, 1st June 2017

Statement by Minister Peter Nelson
Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland in Japan

Thank you Mr. Chair

Let me thank the Co-Chairs, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and Japan for the invitation to this plenary meeting. Switzerland is pleased to participate for the ninth time in a GICNT plenary and would like to thank the government of Japan for their exceptional hospitality. We are also grateful to the Netherlands for their work as IAG Coordinator and to Finland for its willingness to take up this task for the coming two-year-period.

Collective efforts to combat the low probability/high impact risk of nuclear terrorism are particularly important today, when international security is increasingly strained and multilateral collaboration in the nuclear domain has become particularly difficult.

Switzerland would like to join the views expressed by earlier speakers and highlight the successful evolution of the Initiative which has established itself as a leading organisation in the very active field of nuclear security by providing advice, documents and practical exercises. Such exercises, the advisory documents produced

by the working groups and the opportunities for exchange of best practices have directly contributed to the establishment of our own national capabilities.

For example in the field of nuclear forensics, the establishment and build-up of national expertise has been spurred on by these meetings and is continuing to benefit from it. Generally, the international exchange offered by the GICNT has also reinforced our own national interagency cooperation. Switzerland will test these reinforced capacities by hosting an IPPAS Mission of the IAEA in 2018.

To conclude, we would encourage the GICNT to continue to coordinate and cooperate closely with the IAEA in the field of nuclear security. Given its expertise and almost universal composition, the IAEA is the most suitable forum for coordinating all the other efforts being made in this area.