

GICNT – June 2017 UK National Statement

The UK fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the EU and its Members States. I will also make some remarks in my national capacity.

It is a great pleasure to be here in Tokyo with you and I would like to express the United Kingdom's sincere thanks to our Japanese hosts and to our American and Russian co-chairs for their efforts in bringing this gathering together. I would also like to express our particular thanks to the IAG Coordinator, Ambassador Nederlof, and to the Working Group Chairs for all the excellent work they have done over the past two years.

We all saw the terrible events in Afghanistan yesterday and offer our condolences to those affected. The UK too has had the misfortune to have experienced the barbarity of terrorism in recent weeks with attacks both in Westminster and in Manchester. Our thoughts go to the victims and their families. It goes without saying that we remain steadfastly committed to addressing the root cause of international terrorism and doing all we can to ensure that we - together - protect ourselves from the impact.

It is more important than ever that we keep focused on tackling nuclear terrorism. It has been little more than a year since the Nuclear Summit series concluded and we need to maintain the momentum of that work and the recommendations for GICNT action.

The work that GICNT does in bringing together experts, practitioners, policy makers and senior leaders to learn from each other is an invaluable part of the holistic effort to address the threat from nuclear terrorism. It is the practical, hands on nature of GICNT's work that makes it stand out. Let me give you an example. Through our participation in GICNT, we learnt about the benefits of using a centralised alarmed system on the border, not something we had considered earlier. Now, as the UK is introducing a new operating model to its borders, we intend to include this. We hope that others have benefited from our experience in the same way that we have taken and used what we have learnt from you.

With this in mind, we encourage all to host, contribute and participate in GICNT workshops. We are planning to host a workshop in London next February under the response and mitigation workstrand. The workshop will focus on 'Recovery Systems and Resource Management in Preparing for Recovering from terrorist attacks involving nuclear or radioactive materials. The work leads directly on from the outcomes of Kangaroo Harbour last year, and builds on the progress of previous UK hosted events: Blue Beagle and Blue Raven. And we are pleased to have co-authored with Finland the paper on sustainability submitted to this plenary.

We are also excited about the future programme of work for the detection working group. We have highlighted four elements that we would like to see over the next two years: development of the informal experts' network; a focus on bringing policy making into the work of the group; greater recognition and use of the playbook; and a continuation of the excellent cooperation between GICNT and the IAEA.

We are committed to the GICNT mission and our strong engagement with the organisation and its members continues. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you over the coming period.