

Statement of UNODC at the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

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Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), allow me to express our gratitude to the host, Japan, to the Co-Chairs, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and all Partner Nations, for the opportunity to be here (by video) and address you and our fellow observer organizations.

We would also like to commend the Implementation and Assessment Group Coordinator, The Netherlands, for their excellent work, and welcome the new IAG coordinator which will be announced today.

In 2009 the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism granted UNODC official observer status, highlighting that “UNODC’s commendable work in addressing issues related to counter terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, has already had a positive impact in promoting implementation of the universal legal framework against terrorism, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism”.

With our work and within our mandate, we actively support the Global Initiative’s principles number 5 and 6, namely:

- ensuring that there are no safe havens for those involved in acts of nuclear terrorism, and
- enhancing national legal frameworks for the implementation of appropriate criminal liability in this regard.

In the last few years, we have intensified our efforts in promoting the relevant legal instruments. Two good examples of it are:

- the “High-Level Workshop on the Promotion of the Entry into Force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material”, held in Vienna in late 2015 and financed by the Government of the United Kingdom, and;
- our most recent training tool: a module on the International Legal Framework against CBRN Terrorism, which is available in all six UN languages and was published earlier this year.

UNODC was privileged to cooperate recently with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and Canada on the very successful Vigilant Marmot Legal Frameworks Workshop, held in January in Bratislava. We look forward to expanding our collaboration and working together on such initiatives, which are examples of synergies among States, the Global Initiative and international organizations for the benefit of all Member States.

UNODC provides legislative assistance to requesting Member States to enhance their penal legal frameworks in order to adequately address issues including nuclear smuggling, sabotage of nuclear facilities and dispersal of radioactive materials among others. We would like to invite States to avail themselves of UNODC’s successful and long established technical legal assistance programme and capacity-building services, and to further support them.

In concluding, let me reiterate that we look forward to continuing to work with, and assist, the Global Initiative Partner Nations as we do with all United Nations Member States. **Thank you very much. Arigato.**