

Afghanistan Statement at the GICNT Plenary

5-7 June, Buenos Aires

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Argentina for organizing and hosting this meeting. I also want to thank the two co-chairing countries, the United States and the Russian Federation, for their efforts aimed at further strengthening the fight against nuclear terrorism through the activities of this important Initiative.

My government fully shares the objectives and principles enshrined in the GICNT Statement of Principles, and have been taking necessary measures to further strengthen its capabilities to counter the threats of nuclear terrorism.

Afghanistan is party to major international conventions on nuclear weapons, as well as combating terrorism, including the acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and is committed to remain free of nuclear weapons and to combat all forms of terrorism. In this regard, we adopted the Law on Nuclear Energy in 2015 that aims at restricting the use of nuclear technology to peaceful purposes and controlling and securing nuclear and radioactive materials.

Afghanistan is located in a region plagued with conflict, terrorism and nuclear rivalries where the risk of nuclear terrorism is among the highest in the world. The expansion of tactical nuclear weapons and civilian nuclear facilities coupled with the transformation in the nature and severity of the insider threat caused by rapid radicalization multiply that risk.

We are of the view that, states are responsible for eliminating terrorist groups within their borders, and should be held accountable for supporting such groups. Even more so, states with nuclear capabilities should be held to the highest standard of accountability in that regard. For, without addressing the factors that allow terrorism to exist, nuclear terrorism will always remain a concern.

Even though, the engagement of Afghanistan with the GICNT is limited because of budget limitation, our commitment to participate with regional and global effort in preventing and fighting against Terrorism in all forms including Nuclear Terrorism is strong.