

GICNT Plenary 6-7 June 2019
Australia – National Statement

Australia thanks the GICNT Co-Chairs, the Russian Federation and the United States, for convening this important meeting. We also warmly thank Argentina for generously hosting this event. Australia has long recognised the global challenges posed by the threat of nuclear terrorism. Since its inception, Australia has been actively involved in the GICNT, including as Chair of the Nuclear Forensics Working Group from 2010 to 2017. Australia maintains its strong commitment to supporting and participating in collaborative initiatives to combat nuclear terrorism, including through regular workshops in the Asia-Pacific region.

Last year, Australia was pleased to provide technical and financial support toward Thailand's hosting of the GICNT exercise, "Destiny Elephant". This nuclear forensics workshop and tabletop exercise, held in Bangkok from 6-8 March 2018, focused on the technical, operational and policy-level consideration for preparing for and conducting investigations of a nuclear security incident.

Our colleagues at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) were pleased to work closely with Thailand's Office of Atoms for Peace and the US State Department to facilitate the workshop which involved nearly 50 participants from nine different ASEAN countries.

These exercises bring together a diverse range of professionals including law enforcement, technical experts and foreign affairs specialists, providing a unique opportunity to understand the requirements of each field during nuclear security events. Likewise, engaging with regional partners is an important step in bolstering regional and international efforts to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear terrorism. Australia looks forward to further such opportunities.

In closing, Australia welcomes the opportunity at this meeting to determine priorities and next steps in our forward work program, and to strengthen further the practical contribution that GICNT is making to nuclear security.