

Chile National Statement – Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, Buenos Aires, 5-7 June 2019

Mr. Chair,

I would like to express my appreciation to the authorities of Argentina and the GICNT for convening and organizing this Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, a valuable opportunity to continue strengthening this important forum for the benefit of our collective efforts to combat nuclear terrorism.

Chile congratulates the Russian Federation and the United States for their re-election to the co-chairmanship of the Initiative; and appreciates their leadership and support in carrying out the objectives of the GICNT. We remain committed to implement the Initiative's Declaration of Principles.

We are conscious that the terrorist threat continues to evolve rapidly, which motivates us to continue strengthening national capacities and international cooperation to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Our country has been the beneficiary of events and exercises organized by GICNT. In September 2017, we had the valuable opportunity to participate, in Bariloche, with the sister nation of Argentina, in the **Paihuen II Radiological Security Exercise**, an event considered exceptional due to its cross-border nature.

Paihuen II allowed us to take significant steps to test plans and protocols and improve national and bilateral procedures in preparation for a possible radiological emergency. Allow me to inform you of some specific actions that we are developing in this regard:

- The Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission has initiated discussions with its Argentine counterpart, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority, to draft a *Communication and Collaboration Agreement* in the event of physical security incidents and radiological emergencies.
- On the evaluation of threats, our National Emergency Plan for Hazardous Materials was approved in 2018, which takes into account such nuclear and radiological incidents; and, the National Specific Plan for Emergencies with Radioactive Materials is currently being drafted, which should be approved in 2019.
- Finally, the need to decentralize and rapidly deploy specialized resources outside Santiago – a key gap identified in Paihuen II – is an aspect that will be considered in the design of

the Coordinated Response Plan for Nuclear Security Events - scheduled for 2021. In addition, the National Emergency Office (ONEMI) is working on a strategy so that national plans be replicated at the sectoral and regional levels of the country.

It is worth mentioning that several of these actions are part of the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan of the IAEA, which Chile is implementing with the support of the Agency and we consider complementary and coherent with the tasks that emanate from GICNT.

I would like to add, Mr. Chair, that in Chile we have the Commission for Security in Radiological Emergencies (CONSER), a forum for interministerial and intersectoral coordination, established in 2015 by presidential decree, that advises the Presidency on radiological and nuclear security matters. The CONSER meets monthly and concentrates its work on strengthening the capacity of our agencies to prevent and react to nuclear or radiological events.

As an active member of CONSER, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the responsibility of keeping the participating organizations of that Commission informed of the main agreements, progress and work carried out in international fora such as this Plenary Meeting and, in this manner, integrate the work of this key forum into our national efforts, with the ultimate goal of improving our procedures and thus contributing to strengthen the global architecture to combat nuclear terrorism.

Thank you and I wish you much success in your deliberations.