

**GICNT Plenary – 5-7 June 2019 – Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**France – National Statement**

On behalf of the French delegation, I would like to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting this plenary meeting and for its hospitality.

Since 2006, the GICNT has undertaken a tremendous work to increase capabilities and to share experience between partner nations. We would like to commend the role played by the United States and the Russian Federation as co-chairs, Finland as IAG coordinator and Argentina, Canada and the UK as working group chairs. We believe that the effectiveness of the GICNT is based on its technical nature, which has usefully been preserved from political issues that are dealt with in other fora.

With 58 nuclear reactors and being confronted to a serious terrorist threat, France considers nuclear security as a national priority. The French President Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed in September 2018 at the UN Security Council that the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism had not disappeared and he underlined the importance of international cooperation in this field. In this regard, France will continue to actively support the work of the GICNT. Since January 2018, French experts participated in ten meetings and workshops and delivered presentations in most of them. France will host a GICNT workshop in

April 2020 focusing on the nexus between detection of a nuclear security incident and the traditional security architecture.

Regarding recent GICNT activities, we would like to welcome in particular the organization of the workshop Valiant Eagle in April 2019 in Nigeria. We consider this a positive step towards an increased involvement of African countries in nuclear security. We encourage the Plenary to consider future events supporting African countries' nuclear security capacity building, in close coordination with the IAEA.

Among the main nuclear terrorism related challenges to be addressed, France attaches great importance to the security of radioactive sources. We continue to promote this issue at the IAEA with the joint statement INFCIRC/910 that three more countries recently joined, but also at the UN General Assembly with a specific resolution adopted by consensus in 2018. We encourage the Global Initiative to continue to raise awareness and develop experience-sharing and capacity-building on such a crucial cross-cutting challenge, as we believe radiological terrorism is one of the most probable forms of possible mass terrorism.

Coordination with other international organizations or initiatives is important to identify areas for cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts. As

the current chair of the Global Partnership, France will continue to encourage working closely with the GICNT. The security of major public events was a priority identified during the first GP meeting in February 2019 and could be an area of cooperation between the two initiatives.

I would like to conclude by thanking again Argentina and by expressing again our full commitment to the GICNT./.