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2019 Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

**Thank you Mr Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen.**

At the very outset, allow me on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to express our appreciation for being invited to this Plenary Meeting and like others here, also express our gratitude to the hosts. We congratulate the Russian Federation and the United States of America on their re-election as Co-Chairs.

We also wish to acknowledge those GICNT Member States for contributing to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund, and for hosting and organizing IAEA nuclear security activities.

Let me summarize some selected nuclear security updates at the IAEA.

Similar to nuclear safety, Nuclear Security is growing as a priority for the Agency and the Member States. This was emphasized by Director General Yukiya Amano in his New Year's Statement early this year that nuclear security has been growing as a priority issue for the Agency. We are also increasingly working with the Technical Cooperation Programme and other programmes to further identify opportunities

The preparations for 2020 International Conference on Nuclear Security or ICONS 2020 is now on the way. At the recent Meetings of the Board of Governors the Director General noted that ICONS 2020 will help to shape the global nuclear security agenda for the coming years. The Informal Open-Ended Consultations to determine a Ministerial Declaration for ICONS 2020 began in April, under the chairmanship of Panama and Romania.

Building on successes of the 2013 and 2016 conferences, ICONS 2020, to be held on 10 – 14 February 2020, will provide a global forum to discuss ways to

sustain and strengthen nuclear security worldwide and to develop strategies for tackling emerging issues.

The Conference will focus on the five (5) main themes: 1) international legally and non-legally binding instruments for nuclear security; 2) role of the IAEA in nuclear security; 3) national nuclear security regimes; 4) emerging technologies and the digital age; and 5) international cooperation and information exchange, sharing of good practices and broader experience to enhance nuclear security. **The outputs from ICONS 2020 will include a Ministerial Declaration; and the conference conclusions will inform the next IAEA Nuclear Security Plan, covering the period 2022–2025.**

On the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) – preparations for 2021 Conference, the first round of informal discussions to plan the 2021 Conference will be held 22-26 July 2019, and all States Parties to the Amendment are encouraged to participate. Those States only party to the CPPNM are encouraged to attend as observers. Following the informal discussions, a formal Preparatory Committee will be convened in 2020. IAEA encourages all States Parties to actively support efforts to universalize the CPPNM and its Amendment.

Turning to material out of regulatory control or MORC, GICNT events focus on building partner capacity in regards to nuclear security events involving material out of regulatory control through nuclear detection, forensics and response. The IAEA complemented and has also contributed to GICNT events promoting legal instruments for nuclear security such as the A/CPPNM and ICSANT. In 2018 IAEA representatives participated in eight GICNT meetings, workshops, and exercises.

In planning its program of future work, the GICNT formally coordinates with the IAEA through the biannual Information Exchange Meetings hosted by the IAEA and by also inviting Agency participation in the GICNT Implementation and Assessment Group and Plenary meetings.

Of particular interest, IAEA and GICNT jointly implemented the cooperation event “Peak of Kinabalu”: Detection and Response Tabletop Exercise in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in August 2018. Through this coordination two GICNT partner nations, Malaysia and the Philippines, came together with their neighbour, Indonesia, a fellow IAEA Member State with the support of the IAEA, for this trilateral exercise.

This model is a good example of inclusive broad-based nuclear security collaboration, and the IAEA encourages similar cooperative initiatives around the world, including in Africa. For this reason, the IAEA supported an observer from Mauritania to attend the exercise in Malaysia.

Africa is one of the priority regions for the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Security. The IAEA provides assistance and training across the areas of nuclear detection, forensics, and response. The IAEA regularly implements national and regional workshops to strengthen Member States' nuclear security detection architectures and national response frameworks.

Two regional workshops on Developing a National Framework to Manage the Response to Nuclear Security Events were implemented in Morocco and Sudan in July and September 2018 respectively. The IAEA also supported the GICNT event 'Exercise Panda Warrior' in Beijing, China in October 2018, and continues to support the implementation of nuclear security systems and measures for Major Public Events in Africa through training and the loaning of nuclear security detection equipment upon request. The IAEA is currently supporting Major Public Events in Egypt, Niger, Mozambique and Madagascar.

The IAEA appreciates GICNT's participation of the Technical Meeting on Nuclear Forensics – Beyond the Science, held from 1 to 4 April 2019 in Vienna. IAEA will conduct the Second Annual Meeting of the Network of Front Line Officers, 1-3 October 2019 in Vienna. And 28 October -1 November 2019 we will host an International Seminar on Nuclear Security Systems and Measures for Major Public Events – 15 Years of Experience: Challenges and Good Practices in Chengdu, China. We have invited GICNT to both events, and welcome your participation.

Mr Chairman, (an expanded version of this statement will be submitted to the Secretariat,) thank you.

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