

*Royaume du Maroc*  
*Ministère des Affaires Etrangères*  
*et de la Coopération Internationale*  
*Direction des Nations Unies*  
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المملكة المغربية  
وزارة الشؤون الخارجية والتعاون الدولي  
مديرية الأمم المتحدة والمنظمات الدولية  
قسم المنظمات الدولية

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO  
AT THE 11TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO  
COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM

DELIVERED BY:

M. REDOUANE HOUSSAINI

DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANISATIONS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

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**M. Chair**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Allow me first and foremost to express, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, my deep gratitude to the Government of Argentina for the warm welcome and the excellent organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).**

**I also wish to pay a special tribute to Russian Federation and the United States of America, as the co-chairs of our initiative as well as to all partner countries for their valuable efforts and constructive actions to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism and to promote the principles and objectives of the GICNT.**

**Allow me also to seize this opportunity to commend the work of the outgoing IAG coordinator from Finland, H.E. M. Jari Luoto, as well as the three working group leaders from Argentina, Canada and UK who have all endeavoured in a dedicated and active manner to bring us closer to the objectives of our initiative.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The expansion of the use of radioactive sources for peaceful purposes by many States particularly in the medical and the industrial fields as well as in agriculture and the protection of environment, considerably increases the risk of terrorist groups getting access, and using them.**

**While fully supporting the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and its applications for sustainable development, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Kingdom of Morocco firmly believes that it is the responsibility of each State to take all necessary measures to secure all radioactive materials within its respective territory and prevent them to fall out of regulatory control.**

**The GICNT with its pragmatic and operational approach, has demonstrated its capacity to support partner nations in dealing with the threat of nuclear terrorism, by promoting collective action in the context of existing UN framework in nuclear non-proliferation and counterterrorism.**

**Since its first plenary meeting in Rabat in October 2006, there is no doubt that GICNT has been a positive and useful multilateral tool, with a large number of activities organised, aiming at building partner nations capacities to prevent, detect, deter, and respond to potential acts of nuclear terrorism, and raising awareness on the urgency to act collectively.**

**Yet more needs to be done. Further efforts to raise awareness on the threat of nuclear terrorism is necessary, especially in countries where nuclear security might not be a priority despite the high threat. Adopting a regional approach is key in addressing the challenges and threats specific to each region. In this regard, Morocco believes that this Initiative could be further strengthened by focusing on workshops and field activities at the sub regional and regional levels.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The Kingdom of Morocco remains firmly convinced that strengthening international and regional cooperation and consolidating international efforts are the cornerstone of an effective response to the threat of nuclear terrorism, that would spare future generations from its potential catastrophic human and environmental consequences.**

**In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco is fully committed to make every effort at the national level to respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism and to support international and regional cooperation, through legally binding instruments and the implementation of UN relevant security council resolutions as well as multilateral initiatives.**

**The efforts made by the Kingdom of Morocco in combatting terrorism in general have yielded major results, through a multidimensional and proactive approach, stemming from the strategic vision of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI. This vision aims at addressing the root causes of terrorism and the environment which facilitates the recruitment of terrorists.**

**In this vein, Morocco has taken up efficient measures to strengthen nuclear security at the national level, as well as to enhance international and regional cooperation. Morocco has endeavoured the past years to further strengthen its national legislative and regulatory framework, in close cooperation with the IAEA as well as our American and European partners.**

**Indeed, several laws in the area of counterterrorism as well as in nuclear and radiological security have been adopted. A law relating to the control of dual use products has also been drafted and will soon be adopted. Furthermore, several regulations are being drafted in the field of nuclear security, including for the security of radioactive sources in use, transport and storage and for the physical protection of nuclear material and facilities.**

**We are also in the process of establishing a nationwide Nuclear Security Detection Architecture strategy, to ensure a solid national framework for the security of nuclear and radioactive sources out of regulatory control.**

**At the operational level, the Kingdom of Morocco organised, within the framework of its cooperation with the IAEA, a wide range of trainings and workshops, at the national and regional levels, through our Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC). Since 2011, around 200 participants from Morocco and**

**African countries benefit yearly from the trainings and workshops organised by the NSSC.**

**In the past two years, Morocco has also organised with the IAEA, two successful regional schools for French speaking African countries, on nuclear security and on Radiation Emergency Management. Furthermore, Morocco will host the first African Capacity Building Centre in Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR).**

**In 2018, Morocco organised, with the IAEA, four exercises at the regional level on the response to a nuclear security event. The aim of these exercises was to involve local and regional authorities in nuclear security scenarios and raise awareness on the nuclear threat at the local level.**

**Looking to future actions, the Kingdom of Morocco will host In December 2019, the GICNT Detection at Blue and Green Borders Tabletop Exercise (TTX) and Workshop, which will address the key issue of the challenges for conducting detection operations at unofficial maritime and land points of entry and exit. The event will also be an opportunity to share best practices in this area.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**By enhancing partner nations capacities to prevent, detect and respond to nuclear terrorism, the Kingdom of Morocco is confident that GICNT will continue to play an important role in contributing to the Global efforts in combating the threat of nuclear terrorism and to strengthen nuclear security capabilities globally.**

**While reaffirming the constant and unyielding commitment of my country in favour of the founding principles of the GICNT, and its determination to contribute concretely to the fulfilment of the objectives of safeguarding peace and international security worldwide, I wish every success to our meeting.**