

**STATEMENT
FROM NORWAY
AT THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE
GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT NUCLEAR TERRORISM
Buenos Aires, 6-7 June 2019**

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of Norway.
2. I would like to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting this event and for its dedication to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).
3. Norway remains committed to this initiative. We are engaged both nationally and internationally in efforts to strengthen the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to the malicious use of radioactive materials and to nuclear terrorism.
4. Nuclear security is often seen as preventing illicit access to or misuse of nuclear or radioactive material. A robust and comprehensive system, however, also focuses on response and resiliency. Nuclear security enhances and underpins broader national security efforts.
5. Together with the other Nordic countries and in collaboration with the US, Norway hosted a workshop on nuclear forensics and security in 2018. A key take-away from the workshop was the need to ensure regional cooperation and cross-border dialogue to be able to make effective use of all available resources in case of a nuclear incident.
6. Last year, Norway also hosted an international symposium in Oslo on Minimizing the use of Highly enriched Uranium in the civilian sector. HEU is one of the key ingredients for nuclear weapons, but has for decades also been used in research reactors and in the production of medical isotopes. Minimizing the use of HEU is an important step in reducing the possibility of such material falling into the wrong hands.
7. Nuclear security and nuclear safety share the common purpose of protecting people, society, and the environment from the risks of mishandling radioactive material. Implementing a comprehensive strategy for nuclear security can complement nuclear safety and safeguards.
8. For many years, Norway has contributed financially and substantively to enhance nuclear security and safety, and to preventing illicit trafficking. These efforts have been conducted in cooperation with other countries like Russia,

Ukraine, Romania and Slovakia. I would also mention the good cooperation we have with our Nordic partners, US and Germany in this regard.

9. On Monday this week, as part of the Arctic Councils EPPR work, Norway organised a table top exercise with participants from all arctic countries. The topic of the exercise was how to handle a serious incident on board a nuclear icebreaker located off the northern coast of Norway. Building capacity and exercising capabilities in responding to a nuclear incident is important for nuclear security, and also improves the abilities for coping with crises and emergencies. International cooperation is essential in this regard.

Mr. Chairman

Norway remains committed to the enhancement of nuclear security and for the future activities of the GICNT. In this regard, we are currently looking into the possibility of hosting a GICNT event on forensics or nuclear detection. We look forward to a dialogue on this.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.