

**Statement by Husham Ahmed, Director General (Arms Control & Disarmament-I), MFA
GICNT Plenary Meeting**

Buenos Aires, 5-7 June 2019

On behalf of Pakistan delegation, I wish to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting the 2019 GICNT plenary meeting.

We appreciate the leadership and contribution of the Russian Federation and the United States, the IAG Coordinator and chairs of the three Working Groups of GICNT.

Since 2007, Pakistan has partnered with GICNT and contributed to its work including development of key documents. GICNT has played an important role in raising technical awareness, making available a menu of models for implementation, promoting exchange of experiences and good practices. These activities have helped strengthen national capacities and strategies in the areas of detection, forensics as well as response and mitigation.

We see value in the development of a range of tools and modalities for capacity building, training and expertise. We have participated in and contributed to these activities. Pakistan considers nuclear security essentially a national responsibility as effective national steps ensure nuclear security internationally.

We consider GICNT as a useful complement to the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security architecture. It would be important to incorporate the IAEA nuclear security guidance and expertise into GICNT documents and activities.

Nuclear security is a work in progress that demands constant vigilance, perpetual preparedness and zero complacency in order to ensure that nuclear and radioactive materials do not fall into wrong hands. Pakistan shares concerns over the potential malicious use of nuclear materials and their devastating social, economic as well as environmental consequences. We therefore have actively engaged in several mechanisms and processes including the Nuclear Security Summit process and the IAEA, among others, that seek to promote nuclear security.

As a responsible nuclear state, Pakistan takes nuclear security very seriously. We have developed a comprehensive nuclear security regime in Pakistan. It is regularly reviewed and updated in the light of IAEA guidance documents, international best practices and experiences shared through GICNT.

Pakistan is party to important international instruments and conventions related to nuclear security. We have developed “Regulations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Installation (PAK/925)”, which are based on IAEA nuclear security recommendations contained in INFCIRC/225/Rev5.

As part of its National Detection Architecture, Pakistan is deploying Radiation Monitoring Portals (RPMs) at all entry and exit points to deter, detect and prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Pakistan is a subscribing state to IAEA’s Code of Conduct on Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. Accordingly, Pakistan has established “Regulations on Security of Radioactive Sources (PAK/926)”. We have maintained a national register of radioactive sources for the last three decades. The register follows the principle of cradle-to-grave.

Pakistan has developed a robust Nuclear Emergency Management System (NEMS). The Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) hosts a support unit to provide technical and scientific services during and after a nuclear security event and expert advice on these matters. The unit is equipped with related lab tools, equipment, software and expert support.

We continue to participate in the IAEA's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB).

Pakistan has established a Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security (PCENS) in 2012. The Centre has grown into a regional and international hub for nuclear security training and has conducted courses with participants from 45 countries. It conducts specialized courses for the dedicated nuclear security force, with a focus on intelligence, counter-intelligence, Human Reliability Programme (HRP), material control, accountancy and physical protection of nuclear materials including during transport.

Most recently, in collaboration with the IAEA, PCENS conducted an International Training Workshop from 8-12 April, 2019 on "Evaluation of Physical Protection System". The training event was attended by 18 foreign participants.

As a demonstration of its continued commitment towards nuclear security, Pakistan has recently joined Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) by subscribing to INFCIRC/899.

Pakistan fully supports effective controls and measures to secure nuclear facilities and materials. The role of technical assistance and capacity building is vital in synergizing between the requirements and capacities in the area of nuclear security.

Over the years, Pakistan has acquired considerable experience as well as expertise in the field of nuclear security. We are willing to offer assistance to interested states and in response to specific requests in this area.

We look forward to remaining constructively engaged within GICNT and beyond in our collective efforts to promote nuclear security nationally as well as at a global level.
