

**National Statement
of the Republic of Korea
at the 11th Plenary of the GICNT**

6-7 June 2019, Buenos Aires

Distinguished Co-Chairmen and colleagues,

My delegation would like to join others in thanking you, the plenary chair and the government of Argentina for its warm hospitality and excellent arrangement for this event. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the Co-Chairs, the United States, and Russia, for all the efforts they made for this plenary. We also appreciate the commendable works done by Ambassador Jari Luoto, the IAG coordinator, and the chairs of the three working groups.

Distinguished colleagues,

Korea has actively taken part in the international efforts since 2012 to reinforce nuclear security regimes. In the context of the IAEA, Korea joined efforts to build enduring international nuclear security architecture centered on the IAEA. In addition, it has contributed to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund and participated in the development of the Nuclear Security Series. The Korea is also making efforts to raise nuclear security awareness and support the establishment of physical protection systems in newcomer states in the Middle East and Southeast Asia by running educational programs at its International Nuclear Security Academy, a.k.a. INSA, the ROK's Center of Excellence.

Korea has also made progress in increasing its own nuclear security capacity by improving the domestic system and establishing the relevant infrastructure based on Korea's participation in and commitments to the international nuclear security partnerships, such as GICNT.

Korea will continue to engage in GICNT activities as described in the Work Plans of the three Working Groups. To that end, we are planning to host a workshop in Seoul in the end of October under the response and mitigation working group. This is a follow-up to the 2016 NSS Gift Basket on Nuclear Terrorism Preparedness and Response. The workshop will highlight the three capabilities; crisis communications; emergency response and public health; and crime scene investigation. We anticipate that this workshop will largely contribute to expanding nuclear security culture and strengthen counter-terrorism response capacity in the area. We look forward to active participation by the GICNT partner nations.

Going forward, the ROK will continue to reinforce bilateral and regional cooperation. The ROK has been working bilaterally with the U.S. and held a scenario-based policy discussion on countering radiological and nuclear terrorism in March this year. Experts from both countries worked as one team and shared best practices and discussed how the two countries would jointly respond to the incident. We look forward to further strengthening cooperation in the area. Starting this year, the ROK government is planning to further enhance nuclear security cooperation with ASEAN member states under the framework of its New Southern Policy. Korea has been part of the Nuclear Security Contact Group since the conclusion of the NSS process and particularly focuses on determining optimal outreach methods for raising awareness on nuclear security. Korea hopes that these activities would allow us to bring something valuable to the table at the GICNT discussions.

In closing, I look forward to fruitful discussion in the plenary. Thank you. /End/