

**2019 Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism  
(GICNT)**

**5-7 June 2019, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

**Statement by Ambassador M.M. Jaffeer**

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Brazil, Argentina, Suriname & Paraguay**

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Argentina for hosting the 2019 GICNT Plenary meeting. As a Partner country, it is an honour for Sri Lanka to be represented at this meeting. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Russia and the USA for being elected as Co-Chairs for the term of 2019-2023.

Sri Lanka recognizes the increased threat posed to global and international security from terrorism, including from nuclear terrorism. As a country that has suffered from the scourge of terrorism for over three decades, we consider international initiatives aimed at combating nuclear terrorism, and promoting nuclear safety and security to be of high priority. Combating nuclear terrorism requires a global partnership, and a broad forum to integrate and consolidate multiple processes taking place in different sectors. Therefore, we appreciate the initiatives taken under the GICNT to share good practices and experiences among participating member countries on building capacity for Nuclear Security and Counter Terrorism.

As a part of our national commitment, Sri Lanka complied with obligations under UNSCR 1540 and has ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We also note, the central role and contribution of the IAEA towards strengthening the international nuclear security framework. Therefore, cooperation with the IAEA to strengthen local infrastructure, and training of officials has become an integral part in ensuring the nuclear safety and security in the country. Similarly, Sri Lanka also engages with several other partner countries and organisations bilaterally and through multilateral forums on non-proliferation initiatives.

At the national level, Sri Lanka has also taken several measures towards ensuring nuclear safety and security, as well as to prevent access to WMD materials by non-state actors. All nuclear activities in Sri Lanka are being carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes and in compliance with international obligations. Appropriate safeguards are in place to provide physical security for all high activity radioactive sources used in Sri Lanka, and to prevent access by terrorist groups. The Atomic Energy Act No. 40 of 2014 contains provisions to control and regulate the nuclear & other radioactive material used in Sri Lanka to combat nuclear terrorism. CBRN units have been established within the tri forces, and necessary training is provided to respond to any emergencies related to nuclear security. Steps have also been taken to increase awareness among stakeholders, in collaboration with the IAEA. The Ministry of Defence, the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Regulatory Council and the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Board works closely in these initiatives.

While Sri Lanka has longstanding experience of countering terrorism locally, the brutal Easter Sunday terrorist attacks of 21st April 2019, have revealed a new dimension of terrorism, with international connections. We are now in the process of obtaining UN assistance to strengthen our counter terrorism capabilities. In this regard, we also seek to

have closer engagement with the GICNT and partner nations, on its programmes and working groups.

Therefore, Sri Lanka looks forward to the upcoming programmes under the GICNT, in particular the technical discussions under the three working groups, and also to participate in the capacity building and training programmes to combat nuclear terrorism.

Thank You