



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC's Statement at the Plenary Meeting of the Global initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

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Delivered by Maria Lorenzo Sobrado, Programme Officer, Focal point for CBRN Terrorism,

Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC

Maria.lorenzosobrado@un.org

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) allow me to express our gratitude to the host, Argentina, for its warm hospitality and welcome, and to the Co-Chairs, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and to all Partner Nations, for the opportunity to be here and address you and our fellow observer organizations. We would like to join previous speakers in expressing our appreciation for the work of Christine Martin.

We would also like to recognize the Implementation and Assessment Group Coordinator, Finland, and the three Working Group Chairs.

With its work and within its mandate, UNODC (and in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch) actively supports the Global Initiative's principles number 5 and 6, namely:

- ensuring that there are no safe havens for those involved in acts of nuclear terrorism,

and

- enhancing national legal frameworks for the implementation of appropriate criminal liability in this regard.

Indeed, already in 2009 the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism granted UNODC official observer status, highlighting that *“UNODC’s commendable work in addressing issues related to counter terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, has already had a positive impact in promoting implementation of the universal legal framework against terrorism, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540 and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism”*.

Since 2009 we have significantly intensified and increased our work and impact in this area. Highlights since the 2017 Plenary Meeting include:

- The 10th anniversary event of the entry into force of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, co-hosted in Vienna in December 2017 by Canada and UNODC and which Key Findings are available in IAEA document INFCIRC/924;

- UNODC’s Global Workshop on the Universalization of ICSANT, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM and CPPNM/A), held in Vienna in March 2018 and financed by the Government of Canada;

- Our new e-Learning module on the International Legal Framework against CBRN Terrorism, which is available since last month in English, French and Spanish, also thanks to Canadian funding;

In less than two weeks in Panama UNODC will host a workshop for selected Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries on universalization of ICSANT, CPPNM and CPPNM/A, also funded by Canada. In addition to Canadian and UNODC experts, we will benefit from the expertise of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN Office

for Disarmament Affairs and the 1540 Group of Experts. I am happy to announce that at this event we will use the materials developed by Canada, GICNT and UNODC for the GICNT Vigilant Marmot Workshop on Legal Frameworks held in Bratislava, Slovakia in 2017, which we have translated into Spanish. In this regard, we look forward to expanding our collaboration and working together on exercises like Vigilant Marmot, which is an example of synergies among States, the Global Initiative and international organizations for the benefit of all Member States.

- Also under our three year contribution agreement with Canada we have had several national visits and workshops (ie Angola, Togo) to promote legal frameworks and are developing a mock-trial on ICSANT.

- In March this year UNODC in co-operation with the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security held a workshop for Lybian officials on the international legal framework against nuclear terrorism, under a global CT project for Lybia funded by Japan. *(The ICSANT component was financed by Canada)*

I am delighted to also refer to our recent project on universalization and promotion of implementation of ICSANT, funded by the European Union and jointly implemented with the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism. This project complements our ongoing work under Canadian funding and will include activities such as provision of legislative assistance, the development of an ICSANT database and e-learning, the development of fictional cases and training. As mentioned by the European Union, we launched this project in Vienna last month and have already started implementation. We will have many activities and impact to report on under this project in the next Plenary Meeting.

We are currently exploring cooperation with the United States of America to promote globally two international legal instruments against maritime terrorism relevant to combating nuclear terrorism , as well as on a project on the international legal framework against nuclear terrorism in Iraq.

Coming back to GICNT activities, UNODC was privileged to contribute expertise to the Canada-United Kingdom GICNT Resolute Sentry exercise held in Montreal in January this year, as well as to Valiant Eagle in Nigeria in April.

We have also contributed our expertise, in particular in relation to ICSANT, to many IAEA activities in areas also relevant to GICNT such as IAEA's regional workshops on the CPPNM and its Amendment in Japan and Cote d'Ivoire in 2018, and one in Vienna last month, or the IAEA Conference on Security of Radioactive Material and their Technical Meeting on Nuclear Forensics.

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations adopted a resolution last month in which, inter alia, it requests UNODC to continue to develop its specialized knowledge on the international legal framework against CBRN terrorism as enshrined in the relevant international Conventions and Protocols, and to continue to provide related assistance to Member States in preventing and countering those forms of terrorism.

UNODC provides legislative assistance to requesting Member States to enhance their penal legal frameworks in order to adequately incorporate international obligations and thereby address issues such as nuclear smuggling, sabotage of nuclear facilities and dispersal of radioactive materials. We would like to invite States to avail themselves of

UNODC's successful and long established technical legal assistance programme and capacity-building services, and to further support them.

In concluding, let me reiterate that we look forward to continuing to work with, and assist, the Global Initiative Partner Nations as we do with all United Nations Member States.

Thank you very much. Muchas gracias.