



**Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism**  
**2019 Plenary Meeting**  
**Joint Co-Chair Statement**

Partner nations and Official Observers of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 5-7, 2019, for the GICNT's 11<sup>th</sup> senior-level Plenary Meeting.

The GICNT welcomed the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) as an Official Observer organization. The GICNT has grown into a partnership of 88 nations and 6 Official Observers since its inception in 2006, demonstrating its durability as an institution committed to strengthening global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism. This Plenary Meeting highlighted the progress that GICNT and its partner nations have made in upholding and furthering its core principles to combat nuclear terrorism. It also provided a valuable forum for dialogue on important policy challenges identified through the successful implementation of GICNT activities since its last Plenary Meeting in 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

Ambassador Roberto García Moritán, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina, chaired the Plenary Meeting. Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, provided opening remarks and highlighted Argentina's national framework for nuclear security and counter terrorism. He further noted Argentina's active participation in international activities to strengthen counter terrorism capabilities worldwide against the use weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Finally, he highlighted the importance of GICNT in developing core capabilities to combat nuclear terrorism and Argentina's continued commitment to the GICNT as the Response and Mitigation Working Group (RMWG) Chair.

The United States and Russian Federation GICNT Co-Chairs, respectively represented by Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State, Dr. Christopher A. Ford and Head of Division of the Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mikhail Kondratenkov, gave opening remarks that included messages from their Presidents thanking all GICNT partner nations and Official Observers for their continued commitment to advancing the GICNT's mission. The Co-Chairs recognized the Republic of Finland for its leadership as Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Coordinator for the past two years. Led by IAG Coordinator Ambassador Jari Luoto of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland played a critical role in implementing the GICNT strategy announced at the Tokyo Plenary. It also hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Implementation and Assessment Group Meeting in June 2018 in Helsinki, which made significant progress reviewing GICNT work, evaluating future priorities, and promoting dialogue on challenges and best practices for public messaging through a scenario-based discussion. The Co-Chairs also thanked the Government of

Argentina for its leadership hosting the 2019 Plenary Meeting and the Nuclear Security Demonstration in advance of the Plenary Meeting.

The opening session concluded with a keynote address from Julián Gadano, Undersecretary of Nuclear Energy, Secretariat of Government for Energy, Argentina. Undersecretary Gadano stated that Argentina is in full support of GICNT and its methodology as a multilateral forum to share best practices in countering terrorism and promoting nuclear security. He noted that GICNT remains a flexible initiative in which new methods, exercises, and experiences can be introduced for the benefit of the partner nations. Further, Undersecretary Gadano emphasized the important lessons that Argentina has gained from being a member of the GICNT. As a host of two Radiological Emergency Management Exercises (REMEXs) — Paihuen I and Paihuen II — Argentina identified best practices that assisted in organizing the nuclear security precautions for the G20 Meeting hosted in Buenos Aires in 2018. Highlighting the value that Argentina gained from hosting and participating in GICNT activities, Undersecretary Gadano concluded by encouraging other partner nations to consider hosting GICNT activities in the future.

### **Selection of Co-Chairs for 2019-2023**

Under the GICNT Terms of Reference, partner nations endorsed the Russian Federation and United States as the Co-Chairs for a new four-year term from 2019-2023. The Russian Federation and the United States self-nominated to continue serving as Co-Chairs for the 2019-2023 term in advance of the Plenary Meeting and presented their candidacy during the session dedicated to selection of the Co-Chairs for 2019-2023.

### **“Pampa Knife,” Nuclear Security Demonstration Exercise**

On 5 June, Argentina conducted the Nuclear Security Demonstration Exercise, “Pampa Knife,” held at the Federal Police Academy. “Pampa Knife” highlighted law enforcement best practices in preparing for a major public event and demonstrated how technical experts and first responders can effectively coordinate in response to a terrorist attack involving nuclear or radioactive material.

In Session Two of the Plenary Meeting, Argentina hosted a panel discussion on lessons learned from the “Pampa Knife” Demonstration. Tomas Bieda, RMWG Chair from Argentina moderated the panel made up of Enrique Cinat, General Manager, National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA); Facundo Deluchi, National Director of Nuclear Policies, Undersecretariat of Nuclear Energy; Facundo Ciampagna, Coordinator of Nuclear and Radiological Response, Ministry of Security; and Cristian Riboldi, National Police Officer, CBRN Division, Federal Police.

The panelists emphasized the importance of continually training and exercising to correct personnel mistakes, building familiarity between responding agencies, and identifying capability gaps before an actual crisis occurs. It was further noted that two crucial challenges addressed in the “Pampa Knife” Demonstration were (1) identifying the lead response authority during a crisis between law enforcement and technical agencies; and (2) attaining and maintaining the

necessary infrastructure to respond effectively. Best practices reviewed by the Argentine panelists included developing clear internal coordination protocols and garnering political support for nuclear security to promote acquisition of necessary infrastructure at the national and local level.

### **Strengthening National Political Commitments to Combatting Nuclear Terrorism**

Partners gave national statements highlighting their contributions to strengthening nuclear security and shared national priorities and recommendations for the GICNT's 2019-2021 program of work. These and prior recommendations made by partner nations played an important role in informing plans for the GICNT's new two year program of work. National statements will be made available on the Global Initiative Information Portal and/or at [www.gicnt.org](http://www.gicnt.org).

### **Plenary Reviews Capacity Building Activities from 2017-2019**

Partner nations shared their experiences with using outcomes from GICNT activities to build capacity, cooperate with like-minded countries, and improve national capabilities. The Plenary also recognized the leadership of countries that hosted and organized GICNT activities over the past two years and reviewed key outcomes.

- The European Commission's Joint Research Center hosted a Nuclear Forensics Working Group (NFWG) Experts Meeting on Presenting Nuclear Forensic Findings in Court on 26 June 2017 in Karlsruhe, Germany to share perspectives on considerations for preparing, producing, and presenting nuclear forensics findings to support the judicial process.
- Together with Chile, Argentina hosted the bilateral REMEX, "Paihuen II," in Bariloche, Argentina on 27-29 September 2017 to enhance national-level and bilateral protocols to respond to a nuclear terrorist threat and incident following the successful Exercise "Paihuen" held in 2014.
- Tajikistan hosted the regional Central Asia Nuclear Detection Exercise, "Roof of the World," in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 17-19 October 2017 to promote the development of national nuclear detection architectures and identify challenges and best practices in developing a national exercise program.
- Romania hosted the Regional Exercise on Nuclear Forensics Support to Investigations, "Olympus Reloaded," in Bucharest on 7-9 November 2017, which built on the outcomes of the October 2016 "Olympus" exercise and focused on the use and exchange of nuclear forensic information in support of law enforcement investigations. Romania also hosted a separate meeting in November 2018 to help develop the GICNT's Nuclear Forensics Self-Assessment Tool
- The Netherlands hosted a Nuclear Detection Working Group (NDWG) Experts Meeting in Bilthoven on 25-26 January 2018 to share experiences in building and sustaining

national nuclear detection architectures and discuss plans for future GICNT NDWG activities.

- The United Kingdom hosted the “Blue Lion” Recovery and Consequence Management Workshop on 6-8 February 2018 in London. The workshop built on the outcomes of the preceding National Frameworks Series events by focusing on the actions taken during the first moments following a terrorist attack, and the consequences of different actions and response times on the long-term recovery from such an attack.
- Thailand hosted the Nuclear Forensics Exercise “Destiny Elephant,” in Bangkok, Thailand on 6-9 March 2018, which built upon the outcomes of the 2014 “Mystic Deer” exercise hosted by Hungary. Destiny Elephant applied the best practices guidance document “Forensics Fundamentals for Policymakers” to current nuclear forensics challenges facing GICNT partners and identified the central issues, challenges, and solutions associated with rules of evidence in the investigation of a nuclear security incident.
- Hungary hosted the Radiological Source Security and Theft Response Workshop “Fierce Falcon” in Budapest, Hungary on 10-12 April 2018 to develop best practices for strengthening radiological material security and theft response capabilities in order to prevent radiological terrorism.
- Mexico hosted the national-level field exercise, “Jaguar Negro,” and GICNT workshop in Ocoyoacac and Mexico City on 29-31 May 2018. These events built upon the outcomes of the 2014 GICNT Nuclear Detection Workshop held in Manzanillo, Mexico by promoting regional cooperation and addressing emergency response, radiological crime scene management, communications protocols, and nuclear forensics to support prosecuting an act of terrorism involving nuclear or other radioactive material.
- As IAG Coordinator, Finland hosted the 2018 IAG Meeting in Helsinki on 11-12 June 2018 to provide partners with the opportunity to review completed work since the 2017 Plenary and provide input into the development of future activities and priorities ahead of the Plenary Meeting in 2019.
- Malaysia hosted the trilateral Detection and Response Regional Exercise, “Peak of Kinabalu,” in Kota Kinabalu on 7-9 August 2018 to focus on the capabilities required to effectively manage and respond to security threats aimed at critical locations within shared maritime spaces, national borders, and interior pathways of regional partners.
- Together with the United Kingdom, Lithuania hosted the “Sentinel II” Workshop on Developing National Nuclear Security Exercise Programs in Vilnius on 9-11 October 2018 to build upon the outcomes of the Sentinel 2017 Workshop. Sentinel II focused on best practices for exercise programs, the exercise planning cycle, and exercise evaluation and improvement planning.
- China hosted the “Panda Warrior” Workshop on Combating Nuclear Terrorism and Emergency Response at Major Public Events (MPEs) on 16-19 October 2018 in Beijing to discuss how planning for security at MPEs fit into national security frameworks and best practices to detect and respond to a nuclear security threat at a MPE.

- Together with the United Kingdom, Canada hosted Exercise “Resolute Sentry” in Montreal, Canada on 29 January – 1 February 2019 to discuss national and bilateral legal frameworks in response to a transnational radioactive material smuggling event.
- The European Commission’s Joint Research Centre hosted the “Cunning Karl” Nuclear Detection Reachback Support Workshop, on 12-14 February 2019 in Karlsruhe, Germany to build on outcomes of the 2017 Magic Maggiore Technical Reachback Workshop. Cunning Karl identified core reachback capabilities and explored the challenges and best practices for providing reachback support to remote locations.
- With support from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Nigeria hosted the regional “Valiant Eagle” Response Coordination and Legal Frameworks Workshop in Abuja on 9-11 April 2019 to address approaches to adapting existing regional agreements on counterterrorism and disaster response plans to nuclear security events.
- Finland hosted a Nuclear Forensics Working Group Experts Meeting on 24-25 April 2019 in Helsinki to help finalize the Nuclear Forensics Self-Assessment Tool and develop the NFWG Work Plan for 2019-2021.

### **Working Group Plans and Priorities**

Partner nations commended the Working Group Chairs for their valuable contributions promoting collaboration within their fields, enabling technical and policy experts from different levels of government to strengthen cooperation with their counterparts from around the world. The United Kingdom, Canada, and Argentina, as Chairs of the Nuclear Detection Working Group (NDWG), Nuclear Forensics Working Group (NFWG), and Response and Mitigation Working Group (RMWG), respectively, presented their proposed work plans for 2019-2021, emphasizing how they will build strategically upon past work plans and address challenges identified during the 2018 IAG Meeting and other GICNT events held during the past two years.

- Building on the presentation made at the 2018 IAG Meeting, the NDWG Chair Mr. Victor Evans of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, committed to priority focus areas including promoting best practices for implementing and sustaining national nuclear security detection architectures, building partner capacity regarding detection strategies; and promoting practical exercises to assist in developing detection plans and capabilities. Based on the lessons from past exercises, the NDWG will further emphasize exploring the relationship between technical and non-technical communities that support radiological and nuclear detection operations, and conducting exercises focused on challenging detection environments, such as airports and unofficial points of entry and exit along water and land crossings. The NDWG calendar will culminate with a Capstone Event in early 2021 to discuss lessons learned and continuing challenges identified through the implementation of NDWG Work Plan activities.
- The NFWG chair, Dr. Ali El-Jaby of the Canadian Nuclear Security Commission, noted the working group will focus on further developing exercises emphasizing best practices for using nuclear forensic science in support of law enforcement while also leveraging the

broad GICNT community to conduct activities facilitating effective communication of technical forensics information to other expert communities. Building off the successful development of the Nuclear Forensics Self-Assessment Tool and NFWG Chapter of the GICNT Exercise Playbook, the NFWG will focus on socializing and using these NFWG products within the international nuclear forensics community in 2019-2021.

- Under the leadership of Mr. Tomas Bieda of the Argentine Secretariat of Government for Energy, the RMWG will address enduring themes from the 2017-2019 term by focusing on three core capabilities: Crisis Communications, Emergency Response and Public Health, and Law Enforcement and Crime Scene Management. In taking a more operational-level approach to future activities, the RMWG will provide technical and policy experts an opportunity to more deeply discuss these capabilities, and related challenges. The RMWG will launch its series of new activities in the last quarter of 2019 with a major exercise initiating discussion of capacity building in its three core capability focus areas. The goal of the RMWG is and to promote a more intricate understanding of international operational models for national response frameworks.

Following the completion of the Working Group Chairs presentations, partner nations spoke from the floor and identified several potential other topics that the GICNT could address in the next few years. Partner nations emphasized the importance of addressing nuclear security culture noting that this could be addressed as either a discrete event or as part of planned working group activities. It was noted that the GICNT should build on best practices in information management and communicating with senior policymakers as addressed in past exercises such as Resolute Sentry. Partner nations also noted the importance of improving the integration of CBRN security issues into national response plans. Finally, partner nations promoted the value of opening the activities to non-GICNT nations.

### **Discussion on GICNT Products and Role in Promoting Capacity Building and International Cooperation**

Partner nations endorsed the Nuclear Forensics Self-Assessment Tool as an official GICNT product. The Self-Assessment Tool is designed to assist partner nations by providing a voluntary framework to structure a national-level interagency dialogue to inventory and assess existing national policies and capabilities that can be applied to nuclear forensics. Several countries shared their experience piloting the Self-Assessment Tool and highlighted how it helped them assess their national nuclear forensics capability before planning future improvements. The NFWG Chair encouraged other countries to utilize the Self-Assessment Tool on a voluntary basis and to consider sharing lessons learned or best practices with the GICNT community.

The three Working Group Chairs also shared progress in updating the Exercise Playbook by adapting and incorporating into it previous GICNT exercises. The Playbook now contains three chapters that contain fictional yet realistic scenarios related to nuclear detection, response and mitigation, and developing and sustaining national nuclear forensic capabilities. GICNT partner

nations are encouraged to use the Exercise Playbook to organize their own exercises to test, evaluate, and improve national capabilities, and to identify mechanisms for strengthening bilateral, regional, or international cooperation. To this end, all participants received two “take-home exercises” from the Exercise Playbook. The Working Group Chairs encouraged partner nations to use these and other Exercise Playbook materials and to consider providing feedback on lessons learned and best practices at future GICNT activities.

### **Sustaining Nuclear Security and Counterterrorism**

In Session Eight of the Plenary Meeting, Plenary Chair Ambassador Roberto García Moritán led a panel discussion on sustainment, which remains a crucial cross-cutting priority area of the GICNT. The panel consisted of Ms. Sandra Paola Ramirez, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Mexico; Ms. Fitriah Bakri, Atomic Energy Licensing Board, Malaysia; and Mr. Mats Ardbreck, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Sweden.

Based on their nation’s work and experience the panelists emphasized the following important aspects of sustainment: human resources, knowledge development, regulatory frameworks, standard operating procedures for national coordination, international collaboration, training/exercises, and sustaining equipment. Ms. Paola Ramirez highlighted that national exercises and subsequent evaluations allowed stakeholders to identify areas of improvement for their national nuclear security frameworks and increased awareness of the threat of nuclear terrorism. Ms. Bakri noted the critical work by Malaysia in integrating nuclear detection into the national response framework for long-term sustainability. Mr. Ardbreck emphasized the need to adapt a national mindset to continuously evaluate and improve existing nuclear security frameworks, legislation, and response systems over time.

### **Outgoing IAG Coordinator’s Message to the Plenary**

The Plenary recognized the leadership of Ambassador Jari Luoto as the GICNT IAG Coordinator for the past two years. In his remarks as outgoing IAG Coordinator, Ambassador Luoto highlighted the important contributions of the partner nations and international observer organizations in providing top experts to participate in GICNT activities.

Ambassador Luoto noted the GICNT must continue to emphasize and conduct exercises, which enable partners to test and develop their nuclear security architecture and procedures while exchanging best practices with partners. Next, Ambassador Luoto identified collaboration across working groups and events jointly organized with international observer organizations as practices that he found particularly successful during his tenure as IAG Coordinator. He noted that the GICNT should continue to emphasize these types of collaboration going forward.

Ambassador Luoto concluded by noting the role of GICNT in bringing core nuclear security messages to the attention of political decision makers so that the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism is not overlooked. He warned of complacency regarding nuclear security

and therefore emphasized that GICNT should continue to highlight our core nuclear security principles.

The Co-Chairs thanked Finland for its leadership in advancing the GICNT's efforts over the past two years, including hosting the 2018 IAG Meeting and a Nuclear Forensics Experts Meeting in April 2019. The Co-Chairs also expressed deep appreciation to the NDWG, NFWG, and RMWG Chairs from the United Kingdom, Canada, and Argentina, who will continue their roles as Working Group Chairs in the 2019-2021 term.

### **Introduction of New IAG Coordinator**

As agreed during the 2017 Plenary Meeting, the Co-Chairs introduced the Kingdom of Morocco as the new IAG Coordinator for 2019-2021. The Co-Chairs highlighted Morocco's contributions to the GICNT as one of the original founding partners and host of the first GICNT Plenary, Chair of the RMWG from 2011 to 2017, and host of several other prominent GICNT activities.

### **Partner Nations Look Forward to the 2019-2021 IAG Term**

Morocco, in its capacity as the incoming IAG Coordinator, reaffirmed Argentina as the RMWG Chair, Canada as the NFWG Chair, and the United Kingdom as the NDWG Chair.

Building on the proposals made by the outgoing IAG Coordinator and partners' feedback during the Plenary, Mr. Redouane Houssaini as the representative of the incoming IAG Coordinator, the Kingdom of Morocco, presented his vision for a two-year strategy for advancing the GICNT's mission. He recognized the value of continuing the strategic direction of the GICNT and strengthening implementation of proposals made at this and past Plenary and IAG meetings. Mr. Houssaini noted Morocco's intent to build on the example of the work both The Netherlands and Finland completed during their tenures as the IAG Coordinator. This enduring strategic framework includes a continuation of practical activities that strategically promote capacity building, maintaining support for the three Working Groups as the foundation for GICNT work, and promoting regional approaches to nuclear security. To advance these efforts, Morocco announced that it will host the next IAG Meeting in Rabat in June 2020 and invited all participants to attend.

As the IAG Coordinator, Morocco indicated its intent to ensure each GICNT activity produces concrete and substantive results that are applicable to both the national and international level. Alongside productive results, the incoming IAG Coordinator intends to emphasize a result and impact-based approach while also instituting more assessment and evaluation measures for GICNT activities. While continuing GICNT work to support international exercises, the incoming IAG Coordinator indicated a desire to focus some exercises on coordination among both domestic and international agencies during a crisis scenario.

Finally, Morocco intends to utilize its position as the IAG Coordinator to conduct outreach for new GICNT partner nations, specifically in Africa. Morocco announced their intention to



promote GICNT at large international conference such as IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS), invite non-GICNT members to observe exercises, and conduct targeted outreach to specific countries that are not yet GICNT partner nations.

The Co-Chairs thank and wish to recognize the countries that have committed to hosting specific GICNT activities over the next two years, including Argentina, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Korea, and Kingdom of Morocco. The Co-Chairs also welcome announcements made by Norway and Tajikistan that they are positively considering hosting GICNT events in the future. The Co-Chairs look forward to working further with the IAG Coordinator, the Working Group Chairs, and all GICNT partners to support these and other GICNT activities with a view towards developing tangible outcomes for the next Plenary Meeting in Hungary in 2021.

### **Announcement on 2021 Plenary Meeting**

Ambassador Gyorgy Molnar announced that Hungary would host the 12<sup>th</sup> GICNT Plenary Meeting in 2021 in Budapest. The Co-Chairs welcomed Hungary's announcement.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Ambassador Gustavo Zlauvinen, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina closed the meeting by reminding partner nations and Official Observers that GICNT has made great progress over the past two days in advancing its mission by agreeing on its strategy for the coming years. He further underlined that Argentina is convinced that the cross-disciplinary themes remain key elements to build a robust and resilient strategy to combat nuclear terrorism. Ambassador Zlauvinen finished by thanking the Co-Chairs, the working group chairs and all the participants for bringing experience and knowledge to Buenos Aires for the Plenary Meeting.