



**THE HONOURABLE ZANE LIGHTBOURNE  
STATE OF MINISTER FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY: "SHAPING  
THE FUTURE"**

**20-24 MAY, 2024**

Co-Presidents,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Good Morning,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, I wish to offer our heartfelt condolences to the people and Government of Islamic Republic of Iran on the tragic passing of the President, Foreign Minister and other officials. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

At the outset, I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, the Director General and the IAEA Secretariat for organizing such an important and impactful Conference. As this is the first time The Bahamas is participating in ICONS, The Bahamas is eager to explore opportunities to deepen its engagements with the IAEA as it seeks to strengthen national nuclear security regimes for nuclear and other radioactive materials.

While The Bahamas is not a producer or importer of nuclear weapons, or a subscriber to electricity generated by nuclear means, we believe in and

reiterate our support for nuclear safeguards, nuclear safety and security, and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Since becoming a member of the IAEA, we have sought to develop and strengthen our national, legal and regulatory framework, focusing on building human and technical capacity in radiation medicine and control of radioactive sources.

As a small island developing state, with a large archipelagic territory spanning some 100,000 square miles, The Bahamas is deeply committed to protecting its territory and its people, and as such, has implemented robust measures to secure the transit and trans-shipment of radioactive material through our beautiful waters.

Further, we take immense pride in our world-renowned container port on our second island capital, Grand Bahama, whose activity is indeed tremendous. Given the size of our beautiful country, we are truly proud that The Bahamas continues to ensure that this port strictly adheres to international practices and standards. This is a testament to our commitment to the safety and security of our nation.

Co-Presidents,

The Bahamas is presently undertaking efforts to bolster and strengthen its national legal framework that would position us to better explore and reap the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. As a small island developing state, resilience and climate change is a major priority for The Bahamas as we are acutely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Bahamas is immensely grateful to the Agency for their support in building its national capacity in utilizing nuclear techniques to combat and mitigate climate change. The Bahamas is especially excited and encouraged by Atoms4NetZero, the IAEA initiative to support states to harness the power of nuclear energy in the transition to net zero. It is the peaceful use of nuclear technology in this way that will help us to shape our future and that of our children.

Co-Presidents,

Cancer care and treatment is of paramount importance to The Bahamas. Bahamians grapple with high rates of cancer per capita. For many years, we have hoped for breakthroughs in technology that will benefit our nation and the precious lives affected by this disease. The Bahamas is

seeking to strengthen its legal framework to ensure the safe and responsible use of nuclear technology in relation to radiation treatment and radiation diagnosis. Therefore, The Bahamas will seek to deepen its partnership with the IAEA through participation in the Director General's Rays of Hope Cancer Treatment initiative to provide greater access to cancer care and treatment in more practical ways.

As we seek to achieve our sustainable development goals, we must discuss nuclear security, we must consider how our future will be shaped and how we should prepare. A key element to shaping our future in this field, is international cooperation and assistance for countries like The Bahamas who require assistance in our efforts of maintaining international peace and security. As we share and explore what our future will look like, let us also consider who will fund it. The question that continues to resonate is - can small island developing states survive with this rapidly advancing world? We resoundingly say Yes, of course we can! The IAEA is evidence that with the proper tools and support, every state, large or small, can keep pace with the ever changing, ever advancing world.

Thank you.