

S I 6 – 18012/020-2023.0002

German National Statement

State Secretary

Stefan Tidow

International Conference on Nuclear Security:  
Shaping the Future

20-24 May, Vienna, Austria

Director General Grossi [falls anwesend],  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the German government, I would like to thank the Agency for organizing this comprehensive and ambitious conference.

[Ukraine]

Please allow me to start with some remarks of grave importance to us:

The Federal Republic of Germany condemns Russia's military aggression against Ukraine in the strongest terms. Russia's ongoing war is a blatant violation of international law, in particular the UN Charter. It jeopardizes international peace and security, with severe consequences for global arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation efforts.

Russia's illegal actions at Ukraine's ZNPP highlight the need to ensure safety and security of nuclear facilities in armed conflicts.

For more than two years, the Agency staff, DG Grossi and his team have shown outstanding

professionalism and courage in their effort to secure nuclear facilities in Ukraine. Germany reaffirms its support to the Agency's efforts to strengthen nuclear safety and security in Ukraine, for example by establishing a continuous presence of Agency experts at all of Ukraine's nuclear power plants, which Germany is supporting with considerable financial contributions.

I want to expressly commend the courageous Agency staff and reassure them of Germany's support.

[Germany]

Germany has phased-out nuclear power generation by shutting down its last active power plants in April 2023. Hence, Germany's focus for now and the future is on decommissioning of nuclear power plants and waste management. However, I would like to emphasize that Germany continues to remain committed to the highest standards of nuclear security, safety and safeguards for all civilian nuclear activities worldwide. Therefore, we will carry on our long-standing and trustful cooperation with the Agency in these regards.

### [Conventions]

One major pillar of said trust is the international legal framework it is based on. I can therefore only reiterate:

Every state should become a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material [CPPNM] and its Amendment.

Every state should become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism [ICSANT].

Every state should commit to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

Everybody should sign and ratify the Additional Protocol, which should be seen as the 21st century standard for an effective and comprehensive Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the Member States.

### [New developments in security]

The importance of a robust international framework cannot be overstated. This holds especially in view of current trends in the industry.

Germany is keenly aware of the increasing threat of digital attacks on critical infrastructure worldwide. This threat affects the Agency itself, but also nuclear infrastructure and materials in Member States. We therefore welcome the Agency's efforts to address the growing need for support on cyber security issues. The ongoing review of the top tier documents in the nuclear security series must lead to very clear requirements on computer security.

Similarly, large hopes are attached to modern reactors, especially Small Modular Reactors [SMR]. The optimistic promises made by vendors concerning inherent safety and security are very hard to imagine. To the contrary, terrorists might be quite creative people. From a German point of view, there is no basis for compromising or softening security requirements for any kind of new build, including SMRs.

Director General Grossi [falls anwesend],  
excellencies,  
ladies and gentleman,  
for Germany, nuclear security remains an indispensable prerequisite for effective nuclear non-proliferation and the effective suppression of nuclear terrorism. That is why we continue our support of the

International Atomic Energy Agency's efforts to strengthen and improve global nuclear security.

I am looking forward to intensive and fruitful discussions, and I am certain that this conference will make a key contribution to enhancing protection against acts of nuclear or radiological terrorism.

Thank you very much for your attention.