



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Vienna

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**At the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future**  
Vienna, 20 May 2024

**In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

**Presidents,  
Director-General,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honor for me to participate in the 4th International Conference on Nuclear Security. The issue holds great significance for my country.

**Presidents,**

Security, whether at its individual, national, or international aspect, even though confronted with severely discordant literature, is among the imperative challenges humans face more than others. Security broadly encompasses concepts such as peace, freedom, trust, health, and other conditions where individuals or group of individuals feel free from concerns, fear, danger, or threats, whether internally or externally.

During the past few months, witnessing the horrific situation in Gaza, international community has undergone a very tough test regarding the nature and manner of security for everyone without any discrimination, which, in our belief, can serve as a criterion for measuring the practical adherence of countries to their legally binding multilateral and international commitments.

Amid the chaos prevailing the international relations, the awakened conscience of

people worldwide stroked by genocide committed and brutal massacre of around 35,000 unarmed innocent civilians, particularly women and children by the shameless and blood handy occupier regime, which is not justified by any logic other than the apartheid and racism. A unified voice remains the only choice for addressing the most urgent catastrophe of our time, with a nodal point of security for everyone and insecurity for no one.

## Presidents

Nuclear security, is a vital yet relatively new domain of international security. In this regard, the General Conference, under its Resolution **GC(54)/RES/9**<sup>1</sup>, has embarked on a number of significant initiatives during past years. The 4th International Conference on Nuclear Security<sup>2</sup>, themed "Shaping the Future," reiterates the continuous commitment of Member States to enhancing nuclear security worldwide. To that end, assessing the current situation and comparing it with the desired status is indispensable for formulating future strategies in light of collective wisdom and shared responsibilities.

The key priority on this issue is protecting the health of human being and society, as well as the environment from nuclear threats. Today, one of the main component in the Threat Taxonomy framework within nuclear security is the **attack or threat of attack on nuclear facilities and sites**. Delaying action on this key element cannot be justified on any pretext and excuse.

## Presidents

Today, we find ourselves at a time when the highest authorities of a rogue regime, infamous for crimes against humanity, not only threat the **use of atomic bomb against Gaza** but also call for attacks on Iranian peaceful nuclear facilities with nuclear weapons.

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1. Resolution GC (54)/RES/9:

"The General Conference, Recognizing the importance of nuclear security as a critical element of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, Recalling the decision of the 2009 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on the Prevention of Nuclear Terrorism, Noting the need to further enhance national, regional and global nuclear security measures and to promote international cooperation in the field of nuclear security, Decides to convene an International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna, Austria, in 2013, and requests the Director General to organize the Conference, in consultation with the Member States and relevant international organizations, to address the evolving threats to nuclear security and the need for an effective international response to prevent nuclear terrorism."

2. The International Conference on Nuclear Security(ICONs) has been held three times so far:

- ICONS2013: Vienna
- ICONS2016: Vienna
- ICONS2020: Vienna

During the past few years, the Israeli regime has conducted numerous terrorist industrial sabotage and explosion operations against purely peaceful nuclear facilities and sites and related infrastructure inside Iran which could have put in danger the health and life of people in the Country and the whole region, while despite of GC resolutions prohibiting any threat or use of attacks against nuclear facilities, there was a complete silence from the so-called guardians of non-proliferation regime which is a vivid instance of double standards and politicization of entire nuclear security principles.

Expecting a change in behavior from a regime that commits acts of war crimes, crime against humanity and genocide is unlikely, however, demanding accountability and imposing the cost of such destructive actions on it and its supporters is a legitimate and legal mandate of relevant international organizations in particular the IAEA.

## **Presidents**

Exploring the **opportunities and challenges of existing and emerging technologies** in security generation and threat mitigation is crucial. The proliferation of new nuclear technologies and related applications has raised sensitivities regarding nuclear security. Furthermore, the subject of new technologies as a tool in security generation has been neglected due to insufficient international cooperation.

Nuclear security goals cannot be fully achieved without effective international cooperation, technology transfer, and equipment in the field of nuclear security. All countries have an inherent right to research, acquire, procure, develop, and benefit from new technologies. Any action, whether political or legal, should not result in prohibiting, restricting, or blocking countries' research, development, acquisition, procurement, and use of new technologies, including artificial intelligence and other related technologies. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that discussions and any potential policy actions do not hinder progress or access to the peaceful use of new technologies.

With the assumption that **nuclear security responsibility** lies entirely with the State, the sovereign rights of any Member State in this regard must be fully respected. Similarly, any

action aimed at undermining or negatively affecting the national nuclear security regime is contrary to the agency's goals and mandates. We believe that establishing and improving appropriate norms, guiding principles, procedures, or potential regulatory frameworks on nuclear security must be done through a gradual, comprehensive and transparent process, taking into account all member countries' opinions through the agency's intermediary.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Confidentiality** is directly related to nuclear security, and the Agency according to its statute, is responsible. In this regard, the publication of any sensitive information of Member States nuclear activities can be used by terrorist groups or countries supporting terrorism to sabotage and disrupt the peaceful activities of targeted countries, as my country has experienced this issue repeatedly. Some countries conducting state sponsored terrorism have recurrently used this confidential and sensitive information to commit industrial terrorism and sabotage in my country's nuclear facilities and sites. The assassination of several scientists<sup>3</sup> in my country indicate that such unprecedented criminal acts must be seriously addressed at the international level and perpetrators bring to justice.

While **nuclear disarmament** and nuclear security are distinct concepts, they are mutually reinforcing and interconnected. The conceptual framework of nuclear security emphasized by the IAEA is not comprehensive. The current conceptual framework and relevant international conventions have overlooked the greatest threat, which is the existence of nuclear weapons. In the narrowest definition of security, security is defined in the absence of threat; now the question is why this framework does not perceive nuclear weapons as a threatening factor, while these weapons pose the greatest danger and threat to global security, and according to the commitments of the possessors, they should be eliminated. In addition to emphasizing nuclear disarmament and its importance in ensuring nuclear security, international literature and mechanisms for the security of facilities, sites, and nuclear activities require further enrichment and responsiveness from responsible institutions, including the IAEA, to condemn and follow up on deterrent purposes regarding any attack or threat of attack

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3. Between 2010 and 2020, five Iranian nuclear scientists (Masoud Ali-Mohammadi, Majid Shahriari, Darioush Rezaeinejad, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, and Mohsen Fakhrizadeh) were killed in foreign-linked assassinations.

on nuclear facilities and sites.

In conclusion, as we convene at ICONS2024, it's imperative to reflect on the evolution of nuclear security and its intrinsic connection to global stability. Over the years, initiatives like the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) have played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue. However, despite commendable efforts, ICONS and similar forums have faced criticism for their limited inclusivity, uneven implementation of recommendations, and challenges in translating discussions into tangible actions. One common criticism of the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) is its perceived lack of tangible outcomes or concrete action plans. Some argue that while the conferences serve as valuable platforms for discussion and information sharing, they often fall short in terms of producing meaningful agreements or commitments that translate into real-world improvements in nuclear security measures. Additionally, there are concerns about the level of participation and engagement from certain countries, as well as the degree of transparency in the conference proceedings and decision-making processes.

In conclusion, to enhance the operational and applicative aspects of the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS), we propose the following:

- 1. Action-oriented Agenda:** Develop a clear and actionable agenda focusing on key issues such as the prohibition of any attacks or threats of attacks on nuclear facilities and sites, the interconnection of nuclear disarmament and nuclear security, confidentiality, improving international cooperation, and addressing emerging threats like cyber-attacks.
- 2. Urgency of Existing Threats:** States have expressed concern about threats to nuclear security, including any attacks or threats of attacks on nuclear facilities and sites. There is an urgent need for global consensus to counter such threats, including cyber-attacks, which could have catastrophic consequences. Strengthening literature on prohibiting any attacks on nuclear facilities and sites and subsequently creating deterrent mechanisms is a primary focus for my country, a main victim of sabotage in its nuclear industry.
- 3. Office for Confidentiality and Security:** Establish an Office of Confidentiality and Security within the IAEA's structure to protect security and communication systems and assist

member states and the Secretariat in fulfilling their obligations. This office will enhance efficiency and productivity by consolidating confidentiality responsibilities within the agency.

**4. Practical Workshops and Training:** Organize practical workshops and training sessions alongside the conference to provide hands-on experience and skill development in areas such as nuclear material detection, emergency response planning, and cyber security. Capacity-building workshops should focus on bridging the knowledge gap between advanced and developing countries in monitoring new technologies.<sup>4</sup> In examining and addressing the opportunities and challenges of new technologies in security generation and threat mitigation, it is suggested to establish an annual specialized training scholarship on new technologies internationally, focusing on artificial intelligence, with funding from the agency's regular budget for developing countries.

**5. Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:** Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices among participants, including lessons learned from past security incidents or breaches. The agency should serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and exchanging lessons learned based on experiences and good common practices from various countries.

**6. Inclusive Participation:** Ensure broad and inclusive participation from both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states. It is expected that the IAEA will facilitate the active participation of member States to strengthen nuclear security and perform its complementary role in the development of all aspects of nuclear security in a country's capacity properly and free from any discrimination. This will help foster a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to nuclear security.

**7. Commitment to Implementation and Follow-up Mechanism:** Encourage participating States to make concrete commitments to implement specific measures or initiatives discussed

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<sup>4</sup>. Considering the knowledge gap between advanced and developing countries in monitoring new technologies, it is necessary to make capacity-building workshops and familiarization and strengthening of important dimensions of international cooperation, technical assistance, financial support, technology transfer, and enhancing all countries' knowledge levels to a point where they actively participate in discussions an immediate goal. Discriminatory and restrictive approaches in this regard will be counterproductive.

during the conference. This could include accountability mechanisms to track progress.

By adopting these measures, ICONS can evolve into a more effective platform for promoting practical solutions and cooperation in nuclear security.

I hope that this conference will serve as an important asset for upgrading the nuclear security program in the years 2024-2028. I wish you continued success and thank you for your attention.