

# **STATEMENT**

**by**

**Mr. Moshe Edri**

**Director General**

**Israel Atomic Energy Commission**

**IAEA International Conference on**

**Nuclear Security:**

**Shaping the Future**

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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Co-Presidents,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the State of Israel, I wish to convey my appreciation to the IAEA for convening this conference, and dedicating the time and effort to the important cause of nuclear security.

Co-Presidents,

On a national level, Israel faced the most brutal attack since its establishment 76 year ago, led by the inhumane terror organization Hamas. The massacre on October 7<sup>th</sup> has taken a terrible toll on thousands of Israeli citizens, including women, children and babies that were murdered, raped, and kidnapped by Hamas to the Gaza Strip. Unfortunately, we are still far from understanding the long-term ramifications of the ongoing war against Hamas.



In addition, on April 14<sup>th</sup> Iran joined the terror organization Hamas by a direct attack on Israel from within its territory with 350 missiles. However, this attack failed with the assistance of Israel's close allies.

As the Director General of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, my responsibility is to guarantee the safety and security of our nuclear facilities that are openly targeted by Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran, even more so since October 7<sup>th</sup>. Israel continues to demonstrate its responsible behavior in this regard, and continues to take all necessary precautions to ensure that these facilities are operated according to the highest international safety and security standards to withstand these threats as required.

Co-Presidents,

Israel is committed to playing an active role in the context of nuclear security, as demonstrated in its ratification of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. Israel believes in the importance of this Convention, a major pillar in the nuclear security



regime. Israel strongly encourages all Member States to join, especially those in the Middle East.

Moreover, last year Israel stated its political commitment to implement the IAEA Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources, in addition to its commitment to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

Israel remains dedicated to its commitments from the Nuclear Security Summit Process. Within this context, Israel joined and supported various gift basket initiatives related to counter-nuclear smuggling and others, such as the Steering Committee of the INFCIRC/908 initiative, which focuses on the very important issue of the “insider threat”. We encourage Member States to take part in this important initiative. Moreover, Israel supports the global efforts to decrease the use of HEU in research reactors and is part of the Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Acceptance Program, led by the US Department of Energy, which will continue to contribute to its nuclear security.



Along with its international commitments, Israel enforces a strict national law in its nuclear centers. Israel's national law also defines the various regulatory authorities and their responsibilities in all aspects of nuclear security, including physical and cyber security.

Co-Presidents,

A discussion on nuclear security is not complete without the issue of emergency preparedness. Israel is a member of the Convention on the Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident, and joined the Agency's Response and Assistance Network.

Israel stands ready to assist, contribute and cooperate on a broad range of emergency preparedness issues, both on a regional and international level.

Co-Presidents,

The State of Israel aligns itself with the Co-Presidents' Joint Statement.

I wish us all a successful and fruitful Conference with meaningful outcomes, which will contribute to the central role of the IAEA in promoting nuclear security worldwide.

Thank you, Co-Presidents.