

**Statement by H.E. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Permanent Representative of Nepal
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security**

Vienna, 20-24 May, 2024

Mr. Co-Presidents,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere congratulations to both of your excellencies for assuming the important responsibility of presiding over the ICONS 2024. I am confident that under your joint leadership, the Conference will bring about fruitful outcomes.

My delegation expresses deep appreciation to Director General Grossi and the IAEA Secretariat for organizing this Conference and for the excellent arrangements for this event.

Nepal acknowledges IAEA's central role in fostering international cooperation in nuclear security and extends gratitude for the agency's efforts in advancing the peaceful utilization of nuclear technology, alongside enhancing nuclear safety and security. We emphasize Nepal's unwavering commitment to ensuring that all nuclear technology applications adhere strictly to the IAEA safeguard framework and security guidelines.

Nepal, like many other countries, would have loved to see the Ministerial Declaration. Nonetheless, in its absence, we are happy to support the joint statement by the Co-presidents. Nepal has always pursued a principled policy of supporting and advocating for the common goal of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are pleased to observe the joint statement's reaffirmation of these principles, along with the promotion of peaceful nuclear energy applications, acknowledging that nuclear security is integral to global peace and security.

Co-Presidents,

Even though Nepal uses nuclear technology in a very limited way, only for medical, agriculture, livestock and disaster management, that also with the technical support of IAEA, we have been taking with the great importance of nuclear-related international conventions and treaties from the very beginning.

Nepal is either a party or a signatory to almost all UN conventions related to nuclear non-proliferation. We are also positively considering becoming a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment soon. Nepal fully recognizes the importance of various treaties and conventions under the aegis of the IAEA in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology while ensuring its safety and security.

In line with the objectives of the IAEA, Nepal adopted National Nuclear Policy, 2007, which aims at regulating, controlling, and monitoring the use of nuclear energy as per IAEA guidelines; enhancing overall national welfare through the peaceful use of nuclear science; and taking sufficient security measure while using nuclear and radioactive materials for peaceful purposes.

More recently, we have adopted Radioactive Materials (use and regulation) Act, 2020 and Radioactive Materials (use and regulation) Rules, 2022 in compliance with the IAEA Framework. Our commitments to the norms set by the IAEA are duly reflected in these legislations.

Co-Presidents,

The complex global political development in the last four years, that is since the last ICONS in 2020, and the rapid technological development being realized each and every day, particularly AI, it has become even more evident that nuclear security is a matter of importance and urgency. I am sure that this conference offers an

appropriate venue for taking stock of activities, development, experiences, challenges and opportunities regarding nuclear security for guiding the road ahead.

Nepal underscores the importance of capacity-building initiatives tailored to the specific needs of developing nations. Nepal advocates for enhanced support and collaboration to empower these countries with the knowledge, resources, and technical expertise necessary to effectively safeguard nuclear materials and facilities. By prioritizing capacity-building efforts, we can collectively fortify global nuclear security frameworks and foster a safer and more resilient world for all.

Nepal also recognizes the pivotal role of effective management of nuclear and radiological assets at the state level, guided by stringent adherence to safety and security principles, in strengthening global nuclear security efforts. Despite Nepal's minimal application of nuclear technology, we remain committed to leveraging its further potential for wider peaceful applications, prioritizing research and development to foster economic and social prosperity. Integral to these endeavors is a steadfast focus on addressing nuclear security concerns, underscoring Nepal's dedication to ensuring the well-being and safety of its citizens and contributing to global peace and security.

I thank you.