

## **Statement of Norway**

**20 - 21 May 2024**

### **International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future**

Before I start, let me offer my condolences to the families of all the deceased in the tragic helicopter accident in Iran yesterday.

Co-Presidents,  
Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me express my gratitude to the IAEA for convening this conference.

I would also like to thank the Co-Presidents for their hard work to obtain consensus on the Ministerial Declaration. We regret that consensus was not possible due to one member state. Norway aligns itself with the Co-Presidents' statement. We also align with the statement prepared by Ukraine and the EU statement.

Co-Presidents,

Norway remains committed to international cooperation to effectively combat existing and emerging nuclear security threats.

The IAEA is the cornerstone of the international nuclear security architecture. The Agency is indispensable in the development of international nuclear security guidance, support to member states, and coordination.

We fully support the IAEA's efforts to universalise the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and effective implementation of all obligations.

In light of rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce, we emphasize the role of cyber in nuclear security. We welcome the Agency's efforts in this area.

We call for the full implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and relevant guidelines and politically binding instruments.

Co-Presidents,

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has severe implications for our efforts to improve nuclear security. Russia's continued military presence at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant Zaporizhzhya is deeply worrying. We reiterate the importance of the IAEA's seven indispensable pillars that continue to be compromised by Russia's acts of aggression.

Norway has worked closely with Ukrainian authorities on nuclear safety and security for years. We considerably increased our support in 2023 through the Nansen Support Programme for Ukraine. We contributed 13 million euros bilaterally to Ukraine to nuclear safety and security, and close to 9 million euros through the IAEA. We commend the Agency for its work and assistance missions in Ukraine.

Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine has led to increased concerns regarding material outside regulatory control. Norway has contributed to strengthening Ukrainian capacities for detection and response to such threats as well as restoration of capabilities at Chernobyl. Norway also funded a project for creating an effective CBRN education and training system in Slovakia and Ukraine.

In 2022, Norway, Finland and the United States jointly hosted the workshop Watchful Viking in Oslo. The workshop focused on regional cooperation and information sharing between national authorities on incidents with nuclear or radioactive material.

Co-Presidents,

Nuclear security is an integral part of our work to promote disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The NPT is the cornerstone of this regime. The IAEA is the key international institution to ensure adherence to NPT non-proliferation obligations.

The issue of nuclear security runs parallel to the issue of nuclear non-proliferation. A robust safety and security regime enables peaceful use of

nuclear technology, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Norway commends the Director General for his efforts to improve gender balance in the secretariat and the Agency's work to advance and support the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Co-Presidents,

Norway strongly advocates minimizing and eliminating the use and stockpiling of highly enriched uranium (HEU). Converting to non-HEU alternatives will reduce nuclear-weapons-usable material to a minimum.

Together with the National Nuclear Security Administration of the US Department of Energy, we will tomorrow issue a Joint Statement on our co-operation to eliminate the remaining stocks of HEU in Norway. This work has progressed considerably since ICONS 2020. When completed, Norway will join the list of HEU free states. We encourage all IAEA member states to sign up to Information Circular 912 and submit national reports on their HEU inventories.

Norway recently made a political commitment to implement the IAEA's Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources. I call on other states that have not done so, to make the same commitment.

Co-Presidents,

Nuclear security can only be ensured through committed international cooperation. Let us continue working together with the aim of developing concise, ambitious, and forward-looking commitments.

Thank you.