

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future
20-24 May 2024, Vienna

Mr. Co-Presidents,

At the outset, we express our deepest condolences to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the tragic loss of President Reisi and Foreign Minister Abdullahiyan, as well as other Iranian authorities in Sunday's helicopter crash.

We would like to thank to the Agency and the Director General for successfully organizing this Conference in such critical times also for nuclear security.

We also commend the Co-Presidents of the Conference, Australia and Kazakhstan for their tireless efforts and constructive engagement. We join others in supporting Co-Presidents' Joint Statement.

Maintaining effective security of all relevant nuclear material is the fundamental responsibility of the states. On the other hand, international cooperation towards a sustainable nuclear security architecture capable of addressing credible threats is critical to prevent unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear and radioactive materials.

Even though important achievements have been made for improving nuclear security by Member States with the invaluable guidance of the IAEA, the evolving global threat environment, increasing level of terrorist activities and nuclear threats continue to pose serious challenges for international peace and security, and hinder sustainable development.

We also acknowledge that a robust security system is related not only to physical security, but is also about cyber security. We emphasize the importance of working together with Member States to identify an effective strategy to address cybersecurity-related risks.

Türkiye has shown strong commitment to the enhancement of nuclear security, both at home as a national responsibility and also in joining in international efforts for effective nuclear security worldwide.

Türkiye is a party to all relevant international nuclear security conventions. We support the Agency's activities for their universalization and effective implementation.

Already before the ratification of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material Amendment, our relevant national regulation had been revised by taking into account its provisions. Furthermore, among others, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism are also in force in Türkiye.

Upgrading Türkiye's legislative framework to the highest international standards and enhancing its implementation capacity is a continuous process. In its efforts, Türkiye appreciates IAEA's valuable assistance.

IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, while not legally binding, contributes to the security of radioactive sources. Türkiye implements this Code as well as the revised supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

We appreciate that the Agency extends its assistance to a growing number of Member States in a wide spectrum of areas, including in the field of nuclear security.

As a country embarking on nuclear power program, we are deepening and expanding our cooperation with the IAEA. We hosted a full-scope International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission in 2021. We are also working together with the IAEA for the preparation of the Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan for Türkiye.

Furthermore, we welcome the establishment of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre at Seibersdorf laboratories. In this regard, we believe that training opportunities offered in the centre significantly contribute to enhancing nuclear security culture and we commend the work carried out by the Division of Nuclear Security.

We are closely following the developments in the advanced nuclear technologies. SMRs (Small Modular Reactors) draw increasing attention also with respect to their nuclear security aspect. We support the IAEA's work to address the specific features of SMRs for nuclear security and actively participate in the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative.

I would also like to highlight that Türkiye considers nuclear security to be closely linked with nuclear safety. Therefore, we support an integrated approach while discussing and designing the measures for two concepts to prevent them from compromising each other.

We believe that as Member States, we should ensure that the Agency has the necessary political support and financial resources it needs to operate effectively. Türkiye will continue to closely cooperate with the Agency and lend its strong support.

Thank you.