

*Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia  
Permanent Mission the United Nations Office  
And International Organisations  
Vienna*



سفارة الجمهورية التونسية  
البعثة الدائمة لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة  
والمنظمات الدولية  
فيينا

## **Statement of Tunisia**

### **Ministerial segment of the International Conference on Nuclear Security**

**“Shaping the Future”**

**Vienna, May 21th, 2024**

**Mr. Chair, Distinguished colleagues,**

First of all, I would like to thank the **Co-Presidents** for their leadership of the **2024 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security**.

I also extend my appreciation to Director General Grossi for his excellent guidance of the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** and for his valuable efforts aiming to achieve the core goal of “**Atom for Peace and Development**”.

Allow me now to express **Tunisia’s profound condolences to the government and the people of Iran**, following the tragic passing of President Raissi and other high level officials.

**Mr. Chair,**

Tunisia remains committed to the necessary reinforcement of the **global nuclear security framework** and to the principle of **non proliferation**. As a **founding member of the Agency**, my country is convinced that **peaceful, safe and responsible uses of nuclear energy and technology** are crucial for achieving global peace and security as well as sustainable development in many vital sectors.

In this regard, our common duty and shared responsibility in **improving nuclear security measures and guarantees** is the safest way to prevent and mitigate the **risks of nuclear terrorism, the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials and technologies**, in accordance with international standards.

**Mr. Chair,**

Committed to strengthen **national security regime**, Tunisia adapted **anti-terrorism law** and specifically addressed nuclear terrorism with several provisions in line with the resolutions of the **United Nations Security Council**, especially **Resolution No. 1540** and in accordance with the “**Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**” and the “**Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Facilities**” and its “2005 Amendment”.

Tunisia has also focused on prevention, capacity building, training, and provision of necessary equipment.

Furthermore, Tunisian authorities established a “**Special Hazardous Materials Control Unit**” including nuclear and radioactive materials. This **Special Unit of the Customs Guard** operates in all regions and border crossings. Its mission is **to monitor the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials**, thereby strengthening nuclear security measures and preventing against the risks of nuclear terrorism. Moreover, many **security forces** are involved in training activities related to nuclear security.

As required by international standards and practices, nuclear security arrangements are also included in **preparation for major events**.

**Tunisia** hosted a significant number of training workshops in various areas of nuclear security, both on national and regional levels.

My country is also setting a **“Nuclear Security Support Center”** aiming to create an appropriate structure for building capacities, training activities, technical support and expertise. The activities of this new Center will be based on the **relevant standards of the Agency**, in the framework of the **international network for “Nuclear Security Support Centers”**.

**M. Chair,**

While commending the central role of the Agency in facilitating a sustainable technical support and assistance to Member States, we call for a stronger nuclear security culture.

The current conference will contribute to **consolidate the multilateral system of nuclear security by increasing global awareness on evolving threats and challenges related to the misuse of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and cyber attacks.**

In this regard the international community **must adopt legally binding rules to be implemented by all states without exception**, in order to further **shape a future** for peace, security and sustainable development.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**