

# Information Circular

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## Communication dated 23 July 2024 received from the Co-Chairs for the preparatory process of the Ministerial Declaration for the 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) concerning the Statement by the Co-Presidents of the International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024: Shaping the Future

1. On 23 July 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Resident Representatives of Australia and Kazakhstan, the Co-Chairs for the preparatory process of the Ministerial Declaration for the 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) attaching the Statement by the Co-Presidents of the International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024: Shaping the Future.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

H.E. Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi  
Director General  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna

Vienna, 23 July 2024

Dear Director General

The Co-Chairs for the preparatory process of the Ministerial Declaration for the 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS), the Resident Representative of Australia, HE Mr Ian David Grainge Biggs, and the Resident Representative of Kazakhstan, HE Mr Mukhtar Tileuberdi, present their compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and have the honour to request the distribution of the attached joint statement, presented by the Co-Presidents at the opening of ICONS, to all IAEA Member States in the form of an IAEA Information Circular (INFCIRC).

The Co-Chairs avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of their highest consideration.



Co-Chair

H.E. Mr. Ian Biggs

Resident Representative of Australia to  
the International Atomic Energy Agency



Co-Chair

H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi

Resident Representative of Kazakhstan to  
the International Atomic Energy Agency

**Statement by the Co-Presidents  
of the  
International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024: Shaping the Future  
20-24 May 2024**

**The following 76 IAEA Member States have aligned with this statement: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, Republic of North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Uzbekistan.**

1. We the Co-Presidents of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future, reiterate our commitment to sustain and strengthen effective and comprehensive nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities.
2. We reassert that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State in accordance with its respective national and international obligations, mindful of the sovereign rights of every Member State.
3. We reaffirm the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recognize that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security, and stress that progress in nuclear disarmament is critically needed and will continue to be addressed in all relevant fora, consistent with the relevant obligations and commitments of Member States.
4. We acknowledge that nuclear security measures may enhance public confidence in the peaceful use of nuclear applications. We also acknowledge that those applications contribute to Member States' sustainable development and we should ensure that measures to strengthen nuclear security do not hamper international cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear applications.
5. We remain concerned about existing and emerging nuclear security risks and threats and commit to addressing them. We recognize that emerging and innovative technologies, inter alia artificial intelligence, present potential challenges and benefits. In this regard, we further recognize the importance of international cooperation in support of national nuclear security regimes, to help us maximize benefits while addressing challenges.
6. We support the work of the IAEA in assisting Member States, upon request, in establishing and improving effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, including through guidance development, advisory services, and capacity building, and accordingly its central role in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation to strengthen nuclear security, as well as its role in facilitating, as appropriate, regional activities.

7. We recognize physical protection as a key element in nuclear security, and support the further development of the IAEA's assistance in the relevant areas of importance to Member States to include prevention, deterrence, detection, access delay and response.
8. We emphasize that any attacks or threats of attacks against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes may compromise nuclear security and recall our commitments in this regard. We note General Conference resolutions GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533 and the 2009 General Conference unanimous decision GC(53)/DEC/13.
9. We recognize the need to ensure resilience in national nuclear security regimes and emergency preparedness in all circumstances, including extraordinary circumstances. We note the IAEA Director General's "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict".
10. We encourage Member States to implement threat mitigation and risk reduction measures that contribute to improving nuclear security including, but not limited to, ensuring the protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials and facilities in accordance with national legislation.
11. We call upon all Member States possessing HEU and separated plutonium in any application, which require special precautions to ensure their nuclear security, to make sure they are appropriately secured and accounted for, by and in the relevant State, and we encourage Member States, on a voluntary basis, to further minimize HEU in civilian stocks, when technically and economically feasible.
12. We emphasize the importance of nuclear security considerations in the context of the growing interest in the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies and reactors, including Small and Modular Reactors (SMRs), in accordance with the respective obligations of Member States.
13. We recognize the threats to computer security and from cyber-attacks at nuclear facilities, as well as their associated activities including the production, use, storage and transport of nuclear and radioactive materials, and highlight the need by Member States to continue addressing computer security risks when strengthening the protection of sensitive information and computer-based systems, and encourage the IAEA to continue to foster international cooperation and to assist Member States, upon request, in this regard.
14. We reaffirm the importance of continuing to promote the universalization and implementation by its States Parties of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. We note the convening of the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the CPPNM which concluded that the Convention as amended was adequate and look forward to the second Conference of the Parties and the review of the implementation and adequacy of the Convention. We also reaffirm the importance of other relevant international legal instruments, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).
15. We commit to maintaining effective security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle, consistent with the objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance documents
16. We emphasize the importance of security in the transport of nuclear and other radioactive material and, in recognition of the continuous increase in the amount of such material, stress the need for Member States to take effective measures, consistent with their international and domestic obligations.
17. We encourage the IAEA to continue facilitating, in close cooperation with Member States, a coordination process to address the interface between nuclear security and nuclear safety, as appropriate.
18. We reiterate our commitment to combatting illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material and to ensure that the material cannot be used by non-State actors for malicious purposes and encourage Member States to continue sharing relevant information, on a voluntary basis, including

through relevant channels. The States providing notifications to databases are responsible for accuracy, objectivity and purely technical character of this information.

19. We support the IAEA's and Member States' efforts to strengthen nuclear security culture in the framework of organizational culture in a balanced and risk-informed manner, and also insider threat prevention and mitigation, in particular through providing education and training opportunities, and note the contribution of other relevant institutional entities, such as regulators and industry, in this regard.

20. We welcome the opening of the IAEA Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC), thereby complementing the existing work of Member States' nuclear security support centres, Centres of Excellence, and IAEA Collaborating Centres, and supporting the IAEA's efforts in capacity building to strengthen national nuclear security regimes, thus emphasizing the importance that Member States support the centre.

21. We encourage the IAEA Secretariat and Member States to continue their efforts in education and development of current and future generations of nuclear security professionals.

22. We encourage Member States to use and contribute to the IAEA's nuclear security review missions and advisory services, on a voluntary basis.

23. We call upon Member States to support and contribute, as appropriate, to the IAEA's nuclear security activities by providing experts and sharing national expertise, best practices, lessons learned, as well as highlighting recent successes, with due regard to the protection of sensitive and confidential information.

24. We recognize the Nuclear Security Fund as an important instrument for the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear security. We will continue to provide, on a voluntary basis, funds to the Nuclear Security Fund, as well as technical and human resources, as appropriate for the IAEA to implement its work in nuclear security and to provide, upon request, the support needed by Member States.

25. We commit to promote equitable geographical distribution and gender equality in the context of IAEA's nuclear security activities, and encourage Member States to establish an inclusive workforce within their national nuclear security regimes, including ensuring equal access to education and training.

26. We call upon the IAEA Secretariat and Member States to take this Statement into account in the consultation process between the Secretariat and the Member States during the development of the IAEA's 2026 – 2029 Nuclear Security Plan, while also considering the proceedings of this conference, as appropriate.

27. We call upon the IAEA to continue to improve communication with Member States about its nuclear security activities and to facilitate the exchange of technical and scientific information on nuclear and radiation technology options in the field of nuclear security.

28. We call upon the IAEA to continue to organize international conferences on Nuclear Security every four years and encourage all Member States to participate at a Ministerial level.