

OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT

Nuclear Security Contact Group

Although significant gains have been made in strengthening nuclear security worldwide, high-level leadership in continuing to advance shared nuclear security goals remains necessary and critical. As the only high-level diplomatic forum separate from other nuclear security organizations and initiatives, the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) aims to serve as a space for open, frank, and forward-looking discussions aimed at spurring progress in advancing implementation of national commitments, thus improving nuclear security practices worldwide.

The NSCG aims to ensure worldwide commitment to nuclear security best practices in order to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation and terrorism involving nuclear weapons or materials, and in order to ensure the maintenance of a strong foundation for sharing the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We dedicate ourselves to this end, and pledge to work together, and to engage with likeminded states, relevant stakeholders, and international organizations and initiatives around the world, in order to promote these objectives.

The goal of this forum is to foster ownership and leadership by those willing to actively engage — both nationally and through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as in other *fora* — in proactive efforts to build and maintain international commitment to the global nuclear security regime. This includes meeting needs and filling gaps in nuclear security practices, sharing best practices worldwide, cultivating a strong nuclear security culture in national jurisdictions and international engagements, promoting universalization and implementation of international nuclear security conventions, and promoting the adoption of IAEA nuclear security recommendations and guidance.

Participants in the NSCG are united not simply by their commitment to the October 2016 Statement of Principles (INFCIRC/899) but by their wider agreement to several important collective commitments:

- We recognize the critical importance of sound nuclear security practices in the prevention of, detection of, and response to, criminal or intentional unauthorized acts involving or directed at nuclear material, other radioactive material, associated facilities, or associated activities that could contribute to preventing the use of nuclear and other radioactive materials in the commission of terrorist acts, proliferation of nuclear weapons, or nuclear terrorism. We are committed to promoting worldwide implementation of nuclear security best practices in order to help prevent these nuclear security events.

- We recognize also that the steps taken by States toward nuclear security are a crucial contributor to sharing the benefits of the peaceful uses nuclear technology worldwide, including the production of electric power, medical and industrial practices, and research activities as envisioned, *inter alia*, in Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and in the Statute of the IAEA. We continue to be committed to promoting nuclear security best practices in order to help sustain the foundation upon which rests the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies that has provided benefits to people all around the world, and which we intend thus to help preserve for many years to come.

- Because of the importance of these goals, we believe that all States, for the sake of both domestic and international security, have the responsibility to ensure an appropriate national nuclear security legislative and regulatory framework, and the responsibility to observe and promote nuclear security international guidance and best practices in their own national jurisdictions and in international fora, and that they should encourage enduring attention to these objectives, while assisting each other, as appropriate, in developing and maintaining such best practices through cooperative capacity-building and human resource development efforts, bilateral, regional, and international cooperation. We are committed to encouraging and helping each other as much as possible in these regards.

- We believe that the IAEA plays a central role in strengthening the international nuclear security architecture, including in implementing nuclear security planning, developing IAEA nuclear security series guidance, coordinating nuclear security activities among international organizations and other initiatives, and assisting IAEA Member States upon request through the provision of technical advice and assistance, peer reviews, and other advisory services. The IAEA must undertake this work with vigor and attentiveness, providing its nuclear security promotional activities with the resources and political and institutional support and encouragement they need in order to succeed, and recognizing the critical role of nuclear security as a crucial element for sharing the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. We are resolutely committed to supporting and encouraging the following endeavors.
 - A. To this end, for instance, we will contribute to the IAEA's international and technical nuclear security conferences, such as by helping lead preparatory work and develop the program and agenda, providing subject matter experts to contribute presentations, sending appropriately senior government officials, formulating forward-leaning Ministerial Declarations and resolutions, and developing national commitments, such as those made during the Nuclear Security Summits, to strengthening nuclear security.

 - B. We will also engage actively in the IAEA program and budget cycle to promote further regularization of budgets for nuclear security staff and core activities, to

encourage new donors and sources of funding to diversify the extrabudgetary funding base, and to provide support to States, upon their request, to include through the provision of subject matter experts for peer review missions, guidance document development, and training. We will also reach out to Member States receiving assistance through the Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA and encourage them to ensure the best possible coordination between their Technical Cooperation projects and their Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) when applicable.

- C. We will advocate for the IAEA to continue developing international guidance documents on nuclear security, including guidance to expand efforts to strengthen preventive and protective measures for the security of: nuclear materials and facilities; radioactive material and associated facilities; and nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control. We will meet the intent of the fundamentals, recommendations and guidance contained in these documents, and share experience on implementation.
- D. We will advocate for the IAEA further enhancing and coordinating the cooperation on strengthening nuclear security with the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, INTERPOL, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), and the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction through opportunities such as: using INSSPs; and coordinating with the IAEA's International Networks on Nuclear Security Education (INSEN) and Nuclear Security Training and Support Centers (NSSC Network).
- E. Additionally, we will work to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks by promoting universal adherence to and full implementation of relevant legally-binding instruments such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment — including through ensuring a robust and effective preparatory process for its 2021 Review Conference and subsequent such conferences — and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) through outreach diplomacy and the provision of assistance, as appropriate. We will also promote implementation of non-legally-binding instruments such as the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.
- F. We will also strongly support the full and universal implementation of the UNSCR 1540 which seeks to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, especially terrorists. We fully endorse the UNSCR 2325

Resolution, which re-emphasizes the importance for all states to implement UNSCR 1540 fully and effectively.

- G. We will work to improve nuclear security practices within our own national jurisdictions, as highlighted in joint statements and in national commitments made during the Nuclear Security Summits, such as protecting against insider and cyber threats, strengthening the security of radioactive sources, ensuring training and preparedness, coordinating with nuclear security support centers, reconciling nuclear safety and security where appropriate, and sharing best practices with other countries, as appropriate. Given the constantly evolving nature of the threats to nuclear security, we will also keep abreast of emerging trends and technologies, to include small modular reactors, that may require more focused attention.

- H. In keeping with our commitment in the NSCG's 2016 Statement of Principles to promote and assess implementation of nuclear security commitments, we will also work with each other in developing, as necessary, promoting, and implementing IAEA nuclear security guidance — including by identifying challenges, and working constructively together, as appropriate, to help overcome them.

- I. We will engage diplomatically with partner states and stakeholders, and in relevant international *fora*, to encourage them to join us in supporting these objectives, and in making new, meaningful commitments to improved nuclear security consistent with these aims.

We remain strongly committed to nuclear security, and urge all States to join us in expressing these shared commitments.