



International Atomic Energy Agency

Statement delivered by

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On the Occasion of the Open Consultations on the Comprehensive Review of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), 31 May to 2 June 2022

Thank you to the 1540 Committee for this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

I would like to highlight the strong relevance of the IAEA's nuclear security assistance to States for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

The risk of nuclear or other radioactive material being used for malicious purposes continues.

And while the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, Member States have consistently recognized the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international cooperation in nuclear security activities, while avoiding duplication and overlap of such activities.

The IAEA is the only international organization having a central and coordinating role in nuclear security activities with competence in the various technical subjects that promote nuclear security.

Through this, the IAEA contributes to the work of the dedicated Committees of the United Nations, such as the 1540 Committee, and specialized agencies within the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, and has established formal arrangements for cooperation with a number of international organizations.

IAEA Member States endorse this relationship through the annual Nuclear Security Resolutions adopted by the IAEA General Conference – most recently in September 2021.¹

The IAEA nuclear security programme is guided by the annual Nuclear Security Resolutions and the Nuclear Security Plan – most currently the 2022-2025 Plan agreed by the IAEA Board of Governors in September 2021.

¹ GC(65)/RES/9 September 2021 (OP28)“Recognizes and supports the Agency’s continuing work to assist, upon request, States’ efforts to establish effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, to fulfil their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions 1540 and 2325, provided that the requests are within the scope of the Agency’s statutory responsibilities.”

The IAEA provides a wide range of nuclear security assistance to States that is consistent with, and complements, international nuclear security instruments, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1540, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

For example, the IAEA:

- develops international consensus-based guidance on nuclear security, published as part of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series;
- supports and promotes the implementation of legal binding and non-binding instruments i.e. conventions and codes of conduct;
- proposes and conducts Peer Review and Advisory Services including the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) and the Integrated Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ). 96 IPPAS missions have been conducted in 57 Member States since 1996, when IPPAS was created, and an IPPAS Good Practices Database has been developed. And 80 INSServ missions have been conducted in 66 Member States since 2002, when INSServ was established.
- provides, coordinates and facilitates training and knowledge networks such as the National Nuclear Support Centres (NSSCs) and the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN). The NSSC Network now has representatives from 66 Member States since its creation in 2012. These Centres are a means to strengthen the sustainability of nuclear security through programmes in human resource development, technical and scientific support for the prevention and detection of, and the response to, nuclear security events. INSEN has 188 institutions from 66 States and 9 observer institutions. Over 80% of INSEN members offer a range of nuclear security programmes from short courses to full Master of Science degrees, using largely INSEN developed teaching materials based on the Nuclear Security Series and IAEA support; and
- supports upgrades of technical capabilities such as physical protection, nuclear material accounting and control, source security, detection, response, nuclear forensics capabilities and support to major public events.. For example, in 2021 40 Member States received IAEA assistance in capacity building for detection of nuclear and other radioactive material. Over 50 States participated in projects relating to enhancing the security of radioactive material in use and storage and associated facilities. The IAEA also supported 8 major public events and 761 items of handheld detection equipment were loaned to 7 Member States.
- Gamification, virtual reality and video-based training tools utilizing a simulated Nuclear Research Institute were further developed, allowing training course participants to deepen their understanding of the nuclear security concepts taught through an interactive approach

Most recently, in March 2022 in Vienna the IAEA hosted the first conference to review the implementation and adequacy of the Amendment to the CPPNM since it came into force almost six years ago.

In April 2022 in Vienna the Agency organized the first international conference on nuclear law which included discussions of the international legal framework for nuclear security.

The IAEA is building a new Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Center, part of the IAEA laboratories complex in Seibersdorf, just outside Vienna. The construction of the new Center is planned to be concluded by the end of 2023. The new Center will provide new capacity for the IAEA to provide training and development in support of sustainable nuclear security initiatives and their effective implementation to meet the diverse nuclear security challenges and situations that States may face.

In addition, through Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs), the IAEA works together with States to review States' nuclear security regimes and identify areas where they need to be strengthened. More than 115 INSSPs are currently active.

Further details and examples of such assistance can be found in the IAEA's annual Nuclear Security Reports and – most recently – the first ever Nuclear Security Review that will be presented at the IAEA Board of Governors in June 2022.

With regards to how the nuclear security activities of the IAEA address the interest areas of the 1540 Committee, associated with nuclear and other radioactive materials specifically – this may be found in the IAEA's submission for the 2021 Comprehensive Review of the status of implementation of UNSCR 1540. This submission demonstrates a strong and clear alignment between IAEA nuclear security assistance and relevant operative paragraphs of UNSCR 1540.

To sum up: the IAEA assists States, upon request, to meet their international obligations, reduce risks and respond appropriately to threats.

There is long standing, formal recognition of the constructive relationship between States' obligations under UNSCR 1540 and the IAEA nuclear security assistance.

Nuclear security assistance provided through IAEA is directly related to States' obligations under UNSCR 1540.

States should be encouraged to share information about their nuclear security cooperation with the IAEA with the UNSCR 1540 Committee.

Let me conclude by reiterating the IAEA's readiness to continue cooperating with this Committee and wishing much success for the comprehensive review process.

Thank you.

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