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IAEA STATEMENT

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AND INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)**

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Introduction

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 important and strong relationship between the IAEA's nuclear security assistance to States and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

Context

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 Agency 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 Agency 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 Mandate and Scope of Nuclear Security Assistance Programme

IAEA Member States endorse this relationship through the annual Nuclear Security Resolutions adopted by the IAEA General Conference – most recently in September 2024.¹

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.

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

¹ GC(68)/RES/9 September 2024 (OP39) “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.”

resolutions 1373 and 1540, and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

For example, the IAEA:

- develops international consensus guidance on nuclear security, published as part of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series;
- supports and promotes the implementation of binding and non-binding legal instruments i.e. conventions and codes of conduct;
- proposes and conducts Peer Review and Advisory Services including the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) , the Integrated Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) and the Regulatory Infrastructure for Radiation Safety and Nuclear Security (RISS);
- provides, coordinates and facilitates training and knowledge networks such as the National Nuclear Support Centres (NSSCs), the International Nuclear Security Education Network (NSEN) and the International Network of Front-Line Officers (FLO); 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.

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 IAEA organized the first international conference on nuclear law which included discussions of the international legal framework for nuclear security.

In May 2024 in Vienna, the IAEA organized the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future, ICONS2024, which included Ministerial and Scientific segments with a participation of more 2000 participants.

The new Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Center at the Agency's site in Seibersdorf, just outside Vienna, which started operating in October 2023, complements and fills gaps in existing national and international training capabilities for nuclear security utilizing advanced technology and leveraging expertise, including through state-of-the-art technical infrastructure and equipment.

In addition, through Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plans (INSSPs) and the associated Nuclear Security Information Management System (NUSIMS) Self-Assessment, the IAEA works together with States to review States' nuclear security regimes and identify and prioritize areas where they need to be developed or strengthened. These plans facilitate coordination with other relevant international initiatives (e.g. EU CBRN Action Plan, UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Voluntary National Implementation Action Plans) with the aim to reduce the risk of duplication of efforts. More than 110 INSSPs are currently active.

Further details and examples of such assistance can be found in the IAEA's annual Nuclear Security Reports and, since 2022, in the annual Nuclear Security Review.

In summary, 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 report to UNSCR 1540 Committee about their nuclear security cooperation with the IAEA .

Thank you.

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