

Information Note¹

Event: International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

Organizers: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Date and Venue: 1 to 5 July 2013 IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

Participants: *Governments:* Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

International Organisations: Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), European Union (EU), European Police Office, IAEA, INTERPOL, League of Arab States (LAS), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Institute (UNICRI), UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ONODA), UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Security Council 1540 Committee.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs): Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Harvard University, Institute for Nuclear Materials Management, Monterey Institute for International Studies, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Partnership for Global Security, Stanley Foundation, World Institute for Nuclear Security, World Nuclear Association, World Nuclear Transport Institute.

Observers: 46 individual observers from 16 countries.

¹ For information –not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organizers or participants in the event.

Conference Objective.

The stated aim of the conference was “to review the international community’s experience and achievements to date in strengthening nuclear security, to enhance understanding of current approaches to nuclear security worldwide and identify trends, and to provide a global forum for ministers, policy makers and senior officials to formulate views on the future direction and priorities for nuclear security”. The products of the conference are to be used in the finalisation of the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Plan for 2014 to 2017.

Background

Recognising that there is a continuing risk that nuclear or other radioactive material could be used in malicious acts the IAEA, mandated by its Member States, convened for the first time, a ministerial-level conference focused entirely on nuclear security for all IAEA Member States. This risk is regarded as a serious threat to international peace and security. While the IAEA Member States recognise that responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each State and that appropriate and effective national systems for nuclear security are vital, it was considered appropriate to collectively review the security risks, analyse progress in improving security and to identify future actions needed to deal with vulnerabilities.

More than 1,300 people participated in the conference from IAEA Member States, eleven international organisations, ten NGOs, along with 46 individual observers. The full agenda for this complex meeting with many parallel sessions meeting is attached and can be found at http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/PDFplus/2013/cn203/cn203_Programme.pdf

Highlights

The Director-General of the IAEA, Yukio Amano, opened the conference, noting that the high level of ministerial participation sent a clear message that the international community is serious about the enhancing global efforts “to protect nuclear and other radioactive material – and associated facilities from malicious acts”. He stressed the importance for States to develop Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP) and for States to take advantage of the established IAEA “peer review” process to enhance nuclear security. He called for States that have not done so to ratify the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). He noted that 30 more States need to ratify the amendment before it enters into force².

Ministerial statements were made on 1 and 2 July by 69 countries. A Ministerial Declaration was published (copy attached). The statements and the Ministerial Declaration are available at <http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaemeetings/cn203Presentations.aspx>.

A series of main and technical sessions took place from the afternoon of the 2 July through to 5 July. The outputs of these sessions are described by the Conference President in his summary at <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2013/nsfocusconcludes.html>.

² The full text of Mr. Amano’s statement is at <http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2013/nsfocusconcludes.html>.

Of particular relevance to resolution 1540 the following statements were made in the main sessions:

- The **High Representative for Disarmament (Ms. Angela Kane)**, speaking on behalf of the United Nations, made a statement (copy attached), in which she welcomed the increased (and overdue) attention to the threat of nuclear terrorism and stressed that nuclear disarmament “will bring us closer to a world of zero nuclear threats than any other measure”. In speaking of the actions of the various UN agencies she:
 - Described UNODA’s support for the implementation of resolution 1540, particularly in promoting partnerships with the private sector and industry to support the objectives of the resolution. As examples she cited the “Wiesbaden Industry Process” (November 2012) and support for the summit of the Union of Arab Banks (June (2013) that were directed at raising awareness of resolution 1540 and its more effective implementation.
 - Outlined the contributions of UNODC, UNICRI and CTITF to the overall effort to prevent terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction technologies and materials.
- In a panel on international cooperation **1540 Committee Member, Mr Bouchaib Eloumni**, (Morocco) delivered a statement on behalf of the Committee (copy attached) outlining the essential obligations under resolution 1540. He also pointed to:
 - The 1540 Committee’s Programme of Work in which priority is accorded to cooperation with international organisations such as the IAEA;
 - The link between the National Implementation Action Plans (NAP) and the INSSPs and the possibilities for cooperation in this area;
 - The need for close cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the IAEA in the former’s role in match-making requests for assistance and offers of help. Given the substantial amount of IAEA activity in this regard and the coordination of this activity is vital to avoid duplication and in ensuring assistance is delivered promptly where it is most needed.

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