



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions

(Vienna, 5-9 December 2016)

Statement by the Head of the Italian Delegation

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Permanent Representative of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna

Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, for organizing the second International Conference on Nuclear Security at a time when nuclear security continues to be one of the greatest concerns for the International Community.

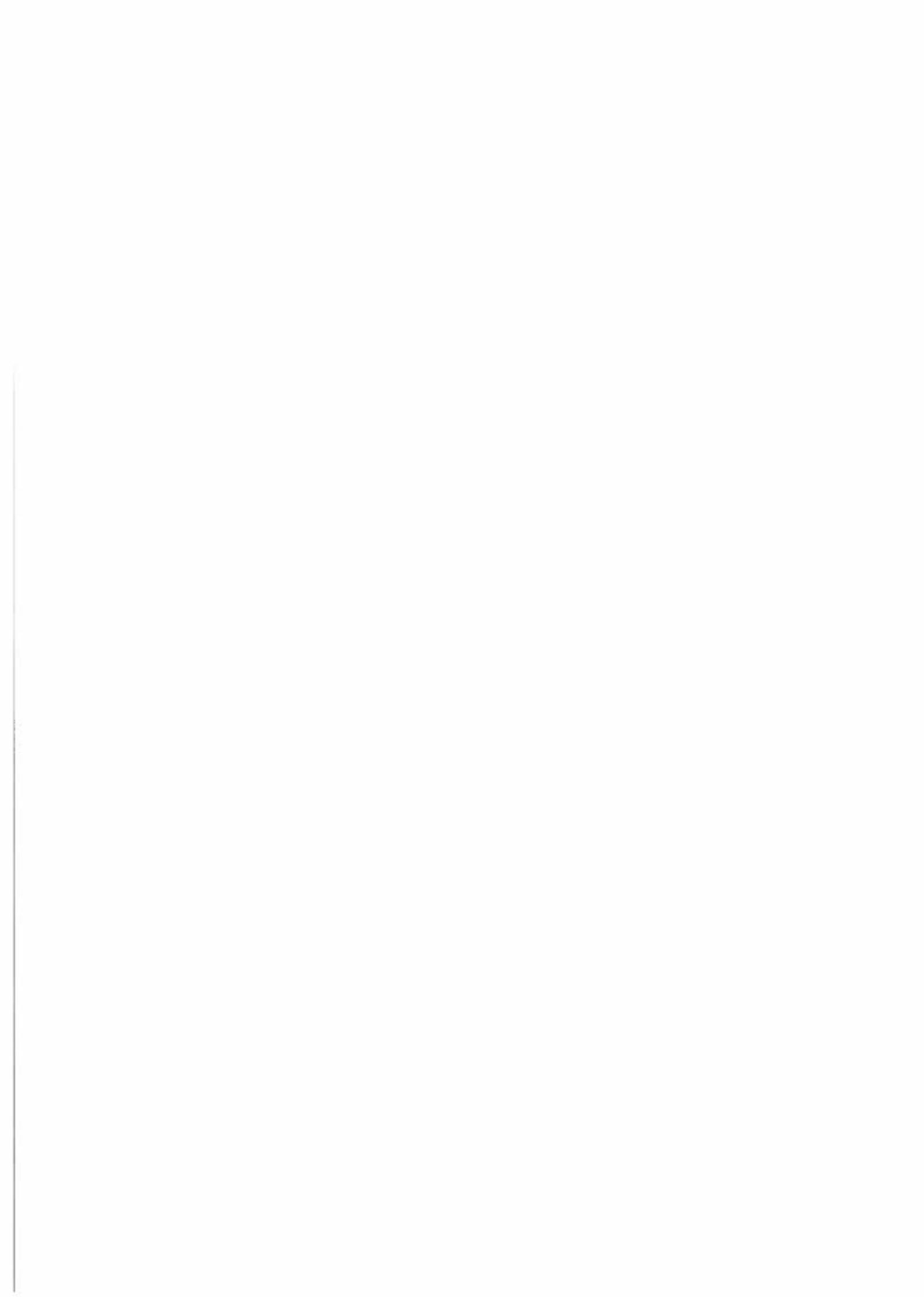
Italy fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and I will now make additional remarks from a national perspective.

This International Conference provides a timely opportunity to discuss progress made at the global level in strengthening nuclear security and to focus on what remains to be done, including through strengthening international cooperation. The outcome of our work here will also serve as an important input in the preparation of the IAEA's Nuclear Security plan for 2018-2021.

Mr. President,

Italy fully recognizes the essential responsibility and the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening nuclear security globally.

It is essential for us to continue focusing on the evolving threats concerning nuclear security. We must therefore pay close attention to developments in science, technology and engineering which may lead to increasing threats. Strong political guidance is needed.



We very much welcome the organization by the Agency of Information Exchange Meetings alongside other important initiatives based on cooperation with other Intergovernmental Organizations.

Physical Protection is a key element in nuclear security. We praise the IAEA's efforts to support States in this respect, also in the area of prevention from cyber-attacks against nuclear installations.

We recognize the need for an integrated and coherent approach concerning nuclear security and nuclear safety and therefore encourage the IAEA to take further advantage of the synergies between these two dimensions.

Moreover, Italy is committed to advancing in the fields of nuclear forensics, information security, nuclear security detection architecture and response, transport security and insider threat mitigation.

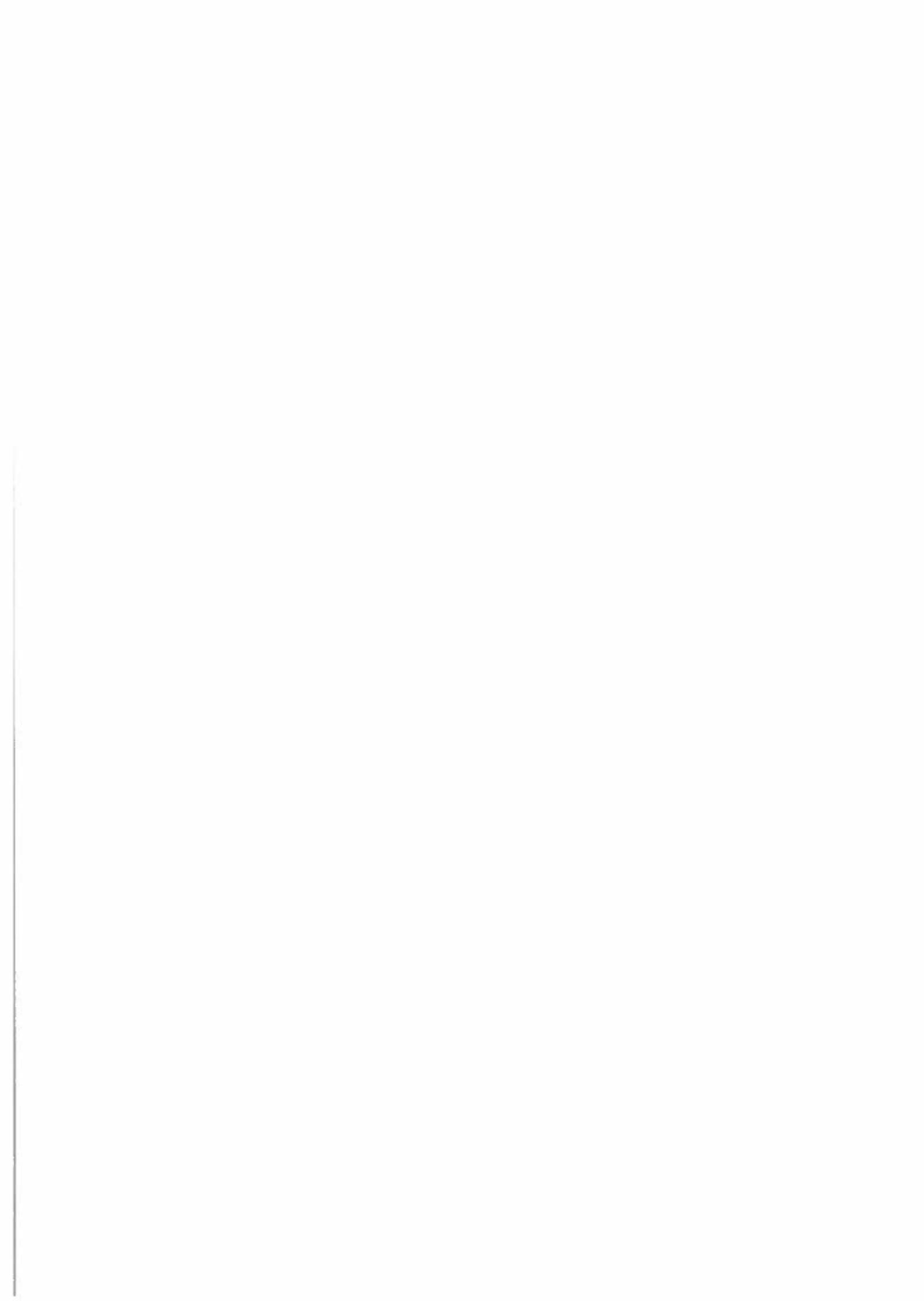
We also believe it is a shared priority to enforce and enhance effective security measures concerning radioactive sources throughout their life cycle, in line with the provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

Furthermore, strengthening nuclear security culture on a global scale remains crucial and in this regard education and training of nuclear security professionals continues to be essential.

Mr. President,

Italy has been an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit Process, which significantly moved forward the global dialogue on nuclear security, and contributed to concrete actions and important results. During the Washington Summit last April we promoted a new and more focused Gift Basket on Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres. The ambitious goals set up by the Gift Basket can make an important contribution to fostering nuclear security culture worldwide.

The development of Centers of Excellence and other nuclear security training and support centers remains indeed crucial for international cooperation in the field of nuclear security. Since 2011 Italy has been financing the International School on Nuclear Security in Trieste, an initiative launched by the Government of Italy together with the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), whose main goal is promoting a genuinely global nuclear security culture. The worldwide participation shows the strong interest for the initiative in both developed and emerging countries, and confirms that the project is an excellent example of cooperation between the Agency and a Member State to global benefit.



Mr. President,

Italy attaches particular importance to the international legal framework aimed at preventing misuse and illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials. We very much welcome the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which finally occurred last May. We encourage the remaining State Parties to the Convention to ratify the Amendment without further delay.

We are also pleased to recall that Italy has ratified the Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We welcome the increasing number of ratifications this year. Our common commitment to fully implementing the Convention will constitute a step forward in the prevention of nuclear terrorism and in the effectiveness of national criminal investigations.

In this last regard, we actively support other important initiatives. Last November, we hosted in Rome a productive meeting of the Nuclear Forensic Working Group of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Furthermore, last week, we organized a table top exercise of the Mediterranean Initiative in the framework of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), including one scenario on illicit trafficking of nuclear material.

Mr. President,

Italy welcomes the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration that will guide our common work to strengthen nuclear security worldwide.

Italy supports the IAEA in continuing to convene regular ministerial meetings on nuclear security to promote political commitment, enhance awareness and keep momentum in pushing forward the international nuclear security agenda. Italy encourages the IAEA to organize the Third International Conference on Nuclear Security by 2019.

I thank you for your attention.

