

# STATEMENT

By

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Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

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Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

On behalf of the Government of Israel, I wish to convey my appreciation to the IAEA for hosting this significant conference, and dedicating time and effort to the cause of strengthening nuclear security and safety.

This endeavor has global implications, and undoubtedly deserves international attention. It is each state's responsibility to ensure the safety and security of its nuclear facilities and materials. IAEA efforts and leadership will definitely strengthen the ability of states to do so. It will also assist with mitigating the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.

This threat is not a national or regional one. Nuclear terrorism does not stop at national borders. The deterioration of security in one state may have a direct impact on the safety and security of others. It is therefore our collective responsibility to work together, with IAEA guidance and leadership, to manage and contain this threat.

The Middle East region is not immune to these challenges. Non-state actors and terrorist organizations continue to play a significant negative role in destabilizing the region. Their illegitimate activities, and threats to obtain nuclear and radiological materials, have a direct impact on the lives of all in the Middle East. It is therefore imperative that all regional states work closely together to ensure that they do not succeed.

Israel has assumed its responsibility to engage with its neighbors and initiate regional cooperation for the promotion of nuclear security. We stand ready to undertake immediately discussions and coordination with our neighbors. Israel's state of the art technology, provide

us with significant depth of knowledge and capabilities, which we are ready to share with others, through different IAEA programs.

Unfortunately, Israel continues to face explicit threats of terrorism by non-state actors and certain states in the region. Iran and its proxy Hezbollah, threaten to launch missiles and rockets against our civilian population. They are clear and open in their threat to attack our nuclear research centers to promote their ill motivated goals. This should be of significant concern for all states in the Middle East, and beyond. Such threats must be strongly condemned by all member states. We must all take a clear stand against those willing to sacrifice the nuclear security and safety of an entire region.

Israel closely and faithfully follows IAEA guidance concerning the security of nuclear facilities and the protection of materials used in nuclear research and applications.

Israel's nuclear facilities hold the highest standards of physical protection measures, above and beyond international requirements and recommendations, as well as national legislations and best practices. Our facilities are safe and secured, and have been strengthened and reinforced in light of emerging threats of attack against them.

National legislation is implemented daily in Israel's nuclear centers and over nuclear materials, including in domestic and international transport and import and export control.

The internal legislation is augmented by national rules and procedures implementing IAEA standards, including the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

We implement IAEA Nuclear Security Recommendations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities, as well as practices derived from Israel's participation in international initiatives.

Israeli legislature dictates the oversight and accountability of all government agencies to various regulatory authorities, in all aspects of nuclear security, including physical security and cyber security.

The Israel Atomic Energy Commission, like all relevant organizations in Israel, are under the oversight of internal and external authorities, including the Israel National Cyber Directorate.

Israel nuclear facilities are protected by various networks, placed under the most severe international regulations, aimed at protecting its assets from all form of cyber-attacks.

Israel ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials. We have fulfilled our commitments, including the submission of a report on our national legislative implementation of the convention. Israel is looking forward to the 2021 Review Conference of the Parties to the Amendment of the CPPNM. The universalization of the Convention and its Amendment is imperative, and Israel strongly urges all member states to join, especially those in the Middle East region

Israel remains dedicated to its commitments initiated during the Nuclear Security Summit process, following the 2016 NSS Joint Statement on Sustaining Action to Strengthened Global Nuclear Security. Within this context, Israel joined and supported various gift basket initiatives, related to counter-nuclear smuggling and others.

Israel's national nuclear forensics laboratory employs state of the art technology and takes part in the global effort to promote the science and applications of nuclear forensics. This laboratory collaborates with the parties to the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

Israel maintains the highest standards concerning emergency preparedness. The Israeli ports are equipped with relevant technology to secure imports and exports. Should a nuclear or radiological terror attack take place, a national strategy is in place to contain it.

Our first response teams are well trained and routinely participate in national preparedness and response exercises, some of them with the participation of international observers.

As part of Israel's willingness to extend assistance, we have joined the IAEA Response and Assistance Network, and our teams engage in IAEA Incident and Emergency Center exercises. Israel stands ready to assist its neighbors and other states in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency.

Mr. President,

Israel has the utmost confidence that all member states can make use of this platform, based on a Ministerial Declaration adopted by consensus, to support the central role of the IAEA in its efforts to promote, improve and strengthen nuclear security throughout the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.