

Statement by Ambassador Aldrik Gierveld  
Resident Representative of the Kingdom of the  
Netherlands

International Conference on Nuclear Security  
10-14 February 2020, Vienna

Co-Presidents, Director-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of our Minister of Nature and Environment and of our Minister of Foreign Affairs I would like to make the following remarks.

Let me start by expressing appreciation to the IAEA for organizing this important conference. It is clearly a great success, confirming our shared concern and commitment when it comes to nuclear security.

To the Netherlands, the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons is at the heart of our foreign policy. The work of the IAEA is essential to achieving the objectives of the NPT: safeguards, safety, security and the access to peaceful uses. We look forwards to the Review Conference in May were these issues, and how they are related, will be discussed.

In this respect, let me invite you to the side event on the nexus between peaceful uses and nuclear security, that we organize together with Nigeria and the US this Thursday afternoon.

Co-presidents,

The Netherlands is fully aware of the constantly evolving threat of nuclear and radiological misuse and terrorism. The risks posed to nuclear material and facilities are evident: a serious danger to our societies and to our people. We are therefore committed to remain vigilant and constantly

strengthen nuclear security. Nationally, but also by enhancing international cooperation and capacity building. Because only together we can improve nuclear security globally.

Excellencies,

The Netherlands is committed to improving its nuclear security infrastructure and has worked intensively over the last years to do so.

As a major global producer of medical isotopes, we reached an important milestone by realizing the conversion from HEU to LEU fuel in the production of medical isotopes in 2018.

Our national Authority for safety, security and radiation protection was established in 2015 and became fully independent in 2017.

We hosted IAEA workshops, received IPPAS missions, implemented and shared the results, and provided IPPAS inspectors to the IAEA. We contributed to IAEA fora such as the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee as well as to international initiatives, including the *Nuclear Security Contact Group*, the *Global Partnership against the spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction* and the *Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism*. We will continue to do so in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To deal with evolving technologies and the increasing threat of cyber-attacks, The Netherlands has put strong emphasis on strengthening our cyber resilience over the last years. We also strongly value the enhanced efforts by the IAEA in this regard.

We furthermore improved our policies with regard to the safety-security interface, including through the cyber relationship between information Technology and Operational Technology.

The Netherlands looks forward to the CPPNM/A Review Conference in 2021, the next milestone event for nuclear security. Let me assure you that my country is committed to working collectively towards a constructive outcome of the conference. We will focus on national implementation, on improving common understanding and on sharing knowledge and experiences to the benefit of all.

Excellencies,

Let me highlight: The Netherlands fully supports the IAEA's central role in strengthening nuclear security, as is underscored in the Ministerial Declaration. The IAEA is the key partner in strengthening nuclear security regimes and nuclear security globally. In addition, the IAEA is the main forum to raise and maintain high level attention to the importance of nuclear security and to facilitate international cooperation. This conference is an excellent example.

In order to continue carrying out this essential work, it is imperative for the Agency to have sufficient and reliable resources at its disposal. The Netherlands is a longstanding contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund and will continue to be so. Nevertheless, we call attention to the vulnerability of the current construction. We will support increasing the allocation of regular funds as well as the pursuit of new sources of funding for the Agency's indispensable work improving nuclear security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by expressing our gratitude and compliments to the work of the Secretariat and in particular to all colleagues in the Division of Nuclear Security. We have full confidence in DG Grossi and share his expressed ambition regarding strengthening nuclear security worldwide. You have our full support.

Thank you.