



**IAEA NUCLEAR SECURITY CONFERENCE (ICONS) 2020**  
**10-14 February 2020**  
**New Zealand Statement**

Excellencies,

In a perfect world, we would not have to think about the horrific consequences of a terrorist attack involving nuclear or radioactive material. Imagine the human impact and suffering; the environmental and economic impacts; and the far-reaching consequences of such an event on so many aspects of our lives that we take for granted, including our access to the benefits of nuclear technology.

But we do not live in a perfect world. The very real possibility of such an incident means that we must remain focused on preventing such a scenario from ever happening. That is why we are meeting today and why New Zealand remains committed to supporting the IAEA's important work on nuclear security.

The IAEA has a key role to play in leading and coordinating nuclear security cooperation and we have a shared interest in supporting this work. We are fortunate to be able to draw on the IAEA's knowledge and expertise to inform both our national nuclear security programmes and international efforts in this regard. Given the likely cross-border effects of a nuclear or radiological terrorist attack, this is clearly an area that requires collective attention and collective action.

New Zealand took advantage of the services offered by the IAEA when we hosted our first mission from the IAEA's Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) in 2015. That mission reviewed the security of New Zealand's nuclear and radioactive materials and provided helpful and pragmatic suggestions. This service is an excellent example of the practical assistance that is available to member states to enhance national nuclear security programmes.

These conferences are an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved, as well as an opportunity to look towards what more we can do. Since 2016, New Zealand has supported workshops led by the World Institute for Nuclear Security and the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism, both with a focus on supporting the Asia Pacific region. We have also continued to implement our updated domestic radiation safety legislation to ensure that at a domestic level our radiation and nuclear materials are as securely stored and managed as possible.

New Zealand will continue to work actively with international partners to keep nuclear and radioactive materials out of the hands of terrorists. We are a core member of the Asia-Pacific Proliferation Security Initiative exercise rotation, which New Zealand will host again in 2022. We are proud to be a regular contributor to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund, and we are pleased to announce today an additional contribution of NZ\$150,000 towards the fund.

In light of the upcoming NPT Review Conference in New York, we are pleased that the Declaration from this Conference will again acknowledge that progress on nuclear disarmament is critically needed. It remains New Zealand's view that complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament will be the greatest possible contribution to global nuclear security.

Thank you.