

**Statement by Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov,
Head of the Delegation of the Russian Federation, Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna, Governor to
the IAEA Board of Governors at the
“International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening
Efforts”
Vienna, 11 February 2020**

Distinguished Co-Presidents,
Distinguished Director General,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to welcome all participants of the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security. This event is an important scientific and technical forum for experts of various levels to discuss relevant timely aspects of international cooperation in the area of nuclear security.

The Russian Federation emphasizes the exceptional importance of the fundamental principle - the responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests entirely with the state. We are convinced that the basis and the key element of nuclear security is physical protection of nuclear and radioactive materials and facilities, as fixed in one of the fundamental documents in this area - CPPNM.

We would like to note that the presence of nuclear or other radioactive materials in countries should not be considered to be a risk or a threat itself. The main objective here is to ensure the appropriate level of security measures of material and related installations.

We advocate for the stable and sustainable development of nuclear energy, as well as the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Measures to strengthen nuclear security should not be an obstacle to the development of peaceful uses of the atom, but keep up with this development and be considered in a comprehensive manner.

Russia reaffirms its fundamental support for the central role of the IAEA in the international cooperation on nuclear security. The Agency remains the most authoritative

and technically competent international organization in this area. At the same time, we are convinced that any interaction under the auspices of the IAEA on the topic of nuclear security should be carried out on an equal and mutually respectful basis, relying on international law and with due respect for confidentiality. The role of the IAEA is to provide technical assistance to states in need, upon their request, without interfering with national competence and governmental bodies.

We urge all states to strive to ensure that an open, technical nature of discussions and cooperation is maintained in the IAEA. We believe that information exchange can bring certain benefits. However, one should not forget that states must be responsible for the accuracy, objectivity and exclusively technical depoliticized nature of the information provided. We note with satisfaction that this is recorded in the Ministerial Declaration adopted yesterday.

Russia attaches great importance to nuclear security. In our country it is maintained at a high level, not lower than the IAEA recommendations. Our regulatory norms in the field of nuclear security are constantly being improved.

Russia also attaches particular importance to maintaining the stability of the international legal framework in the area of nuclear security. We urge all countries that have not yet done so to sign and enact the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Our country supports the work of the IAEA in the field of nuclear security, providing not only expertise, but also financial support. Since 2010 Russia annually contributes 1 mln US dollars to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). As part of activities funded by Russian voluntary contributions to the NSF, more than forty international, regional and national projects are being implemented annually. The IAEA training courses and workshops, research work, practical targeted assistance to interested member-states and financial support to the participation of international experts in IAEA events are among the work carried out. We are pleased to note that over the period 2016-2019 over 600 specialists from more than 70 countries were trained at the IAEA international courses and seminars on nuclear security in Russia.

We share the call to hold ministerial conferences on nuclear security every four

years, which corresponds to the development cycle of the relevant IAEA Nuclear Security Plans. We hope that main provisions of the Ministerial Declaration adopted yesterday will be taken into account in development of the respective Plan for the years 2022-2025 as well as in negotiating the relevant resolution of the upcoming IAEA General Conference.

Thank you.