

Tajikistan National Statement to International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts.

10-14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria

On behalf of the Government of Tajikistan, I would like to thank International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing this International Conference. I would like really to emphasize the tremendous work which is carried out by IAEA in sustaining and strengthening nuclear security world-wide. Personally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi for his dedication to IAEA and for very effective cooperation we have established.

Republic of Tajikistan became IAEA Member in 2001 and immediately established very sound and effective regulatory authority – Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency (NRSA) in 2003 which is responsible for ensuring both radiation safety and security and competent TSO in 2011. NRSA is very committed to nuclear security and therefore introduces provisions of IAEA Nuclear Security Series into National Legislation. NRSA inspectors annually are carrying out security inspections of related organizations in the country, thus ensuring sustaining and strengthening nuclear security in the country.

It is worth to mention that Government of Tajikistan approved Tajikistan's National Action Plan on implementation of UNSCR1540 by its Decree №54 from 9 February 2016 where a lot of provisions are foreseen for sustaining and strengthening nuclear security in the country.

Government of Tajikistan, one of the first in the region of Central Asia, approved Nuclear Smuggling Incident Protocol (NSIP) by its Decree №616 from 29 December 2018 where concept of operation of all law-enforcement agencies are written down in details during illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

The Government of Tajikistan was also pleased to host GICNT Nuclear Detection Tabletop Exercise titled “Roof of the World” on October 17-19, 2017. The exercise highlighted work of GICNT and regional partners in promoting the development and strengthening of national nuclear detection architectures. Participants agreed on the importance of regional collaboration on nuclear security and valuable role of international organizations including IAEA in helping Member States strengthen national capabilities.

Government of Tajikistan on 20 March 2018 commissioned operation of Regional Training Center on WMD Non-Proliferation and Export Control for countries of Central Asia, Caucasus and Afghanistan where capacity building for more than 500 law-enforcement, customs, technical experts and regulatory authority staff from the region is organized annually and IAEA assistance in developing training syllabus for that center is highly appreciated. Mentioned center is a member of NSSC Network and expressed its readiness to serve as a regional NSSC for

Central Asia. Regional Training Center has effective infrastructure and ready to organize IAEA training events related to detection and response.

Mr. Chairman,

Recently, Tajikistan hosted high level conference: “International and regional cooperation in struggling terrorism and its funding sources” held in Dushanbe from 16 to 17 May 2019 and it was attended by 50 countries.

Tajikistan is a party to major international conventions on nuclear weapons and is committed to remain free of nuclear weapons. Therefore, in order to control illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control, through its borders, Government of Tajikistan continuously equips BCPs by Radiation Portal Monitors (RPM). 10 BCPs are fully equipped with RPMs and Dushanbe International Airport with support of USA Department of Energy was fully equipped with RPMs as well, opening ceremony of which took place on 22nd October 2019. Equipping of 3 other BCPs with support of US Department of Energy is planned in 2020.

In order to sustain and strengthen nuclear security in the country, Government of Tajikistan, took a decision to allocate 10 million somoni which is equal to 1 million US dollars for construction of modern nuclear forensics laboratory.

It is anticipated that construction of nuclear forensics laboratory will be finalized by the end of 2020 and for sure will serve for the benefit of the region, thus contributing to its nuclear security regime.

Thanks you Mr. Chairman.