

# General Conference

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Item 14 of the agenda  
(GC(47)/21)

## Nuclear and Radiological Security

### Progress on Measures to Protect against Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism

**Resolution adopted on 19 September 2003 during the tenth plenary  
meeting**

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling the 45th General Conference's unequivocal condemnation of the attacks which took place on 11 September 2001,
- (b) Recalling its resolutions GC(45)/RES/14 and GC(46)/RES/13 on measures to improve the security of nuclear materials and other radioactive materials, including radioactive sources,
- (c) Recalling further relevant resolutions of the General Conference on measures against illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive materials, including radioactive sources,
- (d) Considering the need to continue to devote attention to the potential implications of terrorist acts for the security of nuclear materials, nuclear facilities, radioactive sources and other radioactive materials, and emphasizing the importance of physical protection, measures against illicit trafficking and national control systems for ensuring protection against nuclear terrorism and other malicious acts, including the use of radioactive material in a radiological dispersion device,
- (e) Recognizing the importance of promoting an effective security culture in the field of physical protection of nuclear materials, nuclear facilities, radioactive sources and other radioactive materials,
- (f) Conscious in particular of the necessity to ensure appropriate security of radioactive sources to avoid their use in acts of terrorism,

- (g) Mindful of the obligations of every Member State to keep its peaceful nuclear programmes safe and secure, asserting that responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and noting the important contribution of international co-operation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities,
- (h) Mindful that every Member State might face the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism and would bear serious consequences if any were attacked,
- (i) Noting United Nations Security Council resolution 1373's call for all States to work, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, to prevent acts of terrorism,
- (j) Welcoming the findings of the International Conference on Security of Radioactive Sources, held in Vienna in March 2003, and noting relevant findings of the International Conference on National Infrastructures for Radiation Safety: Towards Effective and Sustainable Systems, held in Rabat, Morocco, in September 2003,
- (k) Welcoming further the Statement and the Action Plan for securing radioactive sources adopted by the G-8 at its Evian Summit in June 2003, and noting with appreciation that the G-8 recognized the essential role of the Agency in that field and expressed support for its work,
- (l) Commending the revision of the Agency's Action Plan for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, which takes account of the evolution of needs particularly in the field of security, and mindful that strengthening the safety of radioactive sources, including through relevant Model Projects, also enhances the security of such sources,
- (m) Recognizing that the threat-based risk assessment methodology is also relevant for the security of radioactive sources, \_
- (n) Reaffirming the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as the only multilateral legal instrument dealing with the physical protection of nuclear material, and taking into account the results of the work of the open-ended group of legal and technical experts achieved in March 2003,
- (o) Recalling that other international agreements, negotiated under the auspices of the Agency, are relevant to nuclear security and the physical protection of nuclear material and other radioactive materials, including radioactive sources against the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism, those agreements including the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management,
- (p) Noting also the contribution of Agency safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and also of States' Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials, to preventing illicit trafficking, deterring and detecting diversion of nuclear materials, and
- (q) Stressing the essential importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear and radiological security that might be of interest to terrorists,
1. Commends the Director General and the Secretariat for their prompt and constructive response to the requests made in resolution GC(45)/RES/14 relevant to the improvement of nuclear and radiological security and protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism;
  2. Takes note of the progress report submitted by the Director General in document GC(47)/17 on measures to improve nuclear security, including the security of radioactive sources and other

radioactive materials and protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism, and commends the Director General and the Secretariat for the implementation of those measures;

3. Calls upon all Member States to continue to provide political, financial and technical support, including in-kind contributions, to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism, and to provide to the Nuclear Security Fund the political and financial support it needs;

4. Welcomes the Agency's programmes and renewed efforts to assist States in establishing and strengthening systems appropriate to their circumstances, which may include national registries of radioactive sources, and in particular commends the Secretariat for the action it has taken in a number of countries, in co-operation with Member States, to locate, secure and remove orphan sources;

5. Welcomes the activities in the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities and the prevention and detection of and response to illicit activities involving nuclear material and other radioactive materials undertaken by the Agency to improve nuclear and radiological security and prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism;

6. Appeals to States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and encourages States to apply the physical protection objectives and fundamental principles endorsed by the Board of Governors and set out in document GOV/2001/41;

7. Welcomes the finalization of the work of the open-ended group of legal and technical experts convened by the Director General in order to prepare a draft of a well-defined amendment aimed at strengthening the Convention, and urges Member States to act on that basis with a view to achieving a well-defined amendment of the Convention as soon as possible;

8. Welcomes also the activities undertaken to provide for an exchange of information with Member States, including continued maintenance of the Illicit Trafficking Database programme, as well as to improve the exchange of information by making the best use of the modernized database, invites all States to participate in the Illicit Trafficking Database programme on a voluntary basis, and further invites all States to consider the potential of illicit trafficking across their borders and within their countries;

9. Notes with appreciation that the Advisory Group on Security has begun its work and will continue to provide advice from Member States' experts on the orientations and implementation of Agency activities relevant to nuclear and radiological security;

10. Takes note of the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear and radiological security, and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement appropriate confidentiality measures;

11. Invites the Director General to continue to implement, in consultation and co-ordination with Member States, and subject to the availability of resources, Agency activities relevant to nuclear and radiological security and protection against nuclear and radiological terrorism; and

12. Requests the Director General to submit a report to the General Conference at its forty-eighth session on activities regarding these issues undertaken by the Agency.