

# General Conference

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Item 15 of the agenda  
(GC(59)/25)

# Nuclear Security

## Resolution adopted on 18 September 2015 during the ninth plenary meeting

### The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling its previous resolutions on measures to improve the security of nuclear and other radioactive material and on measures against the illicit trafficking of these materials,
- (b) Taking note of the Nuclear Security Report 2015 submitted by the Director General in document GC(59)/12 and of the Nuclear Security Plan for 2014–2017 approved by the Board of Governors in September 2013,
- (c) Recognizing that nuclear security contributes to the broader goal of strengthening international peace and security, and stressing that further progress is urgently needed in nuclear disarmament, consistent with relevant international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations and commitments,<sup>1</sup>
- (d) Recalling with appreciation the 2013 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts and its related Ministerial Declaration, taking note of valuable technical expert discussions reflected in its President's Summary Report, and looking forward to the 2016 International Conference on Nuclear Security, including its Ministerial segment,
- (e) Asserting that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and mindful of the responsibilities of every Member State, in accordance with its respective national and international obligations, to maintain effective nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive material,
- (f) Recognizing the importance of maintaining a dialogue, as appropriate, between government bodies and nuclear industry at national level on strengthening nuclear security,

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<sup>1</sup> The phrase “and stressing that further progress ... obligations and commitments” was voted on separately and was approved with 113 in favour, 3 against and 6 abstentions.

- (g) Underlining the enduring need to raise awareness of nuclear security among all stakeholders, which include users of nuclear and other radioactive material and competent authorities,
- (h) Reaffirming the central role of the Agency in facilitating international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure the security of civilian nuclear and other radioactive material,
- (i) Recognizing that highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium in all their applications require special precautions to ensure their nuclear security and that it is of great importance that they be appropriately secured and accounted for, by and in the relevant State,
- (j) Recognizing the importance of minimizing the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and using low enriched uranium (LEU) where technically and economically feasible,
- (k) Noting United Nations Security Council resolutions 1373, 1540, 1673, 1810 and 1977, United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/39, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and international efforts in conformity with these instruments to prevent access by non-State actors, to weapons of mass destruction and related material,
- (l) Reaffirming the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and of its 2005 Amendment extending its scope, recognizing the importance of acceptance, approval or ratification by further States, and recognizing the importance of and welcoming all efforts by Contracting Parties to promote the entry into force of the amendment at the earliest possible date,
- (m) Noting the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) relating to nuclear security,
- (n) Recognizing the need to strengthen and improve cooperation in, and the coordination of, international efforts in the field of nuclear security in order to avoid duplication and overlap, and acknowledging the Agency's central role in this respect,
- (o) Recognizing the Agency's central role, as emphasized for instance by the 16th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in August 2012, in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents and, on request, providing assistance to Member States in order to facilitate their implementation,
- (p) Emphasizing the need for the involvement of all Member States of the Agency in nuclear security-related activities and initiatives in an inclusive manner, and noting the role that international processes and initiatives, including the Nuclear Security Summits, could play in the area of nuclear security,
- (q) Emphasizing the need for Member States to continue providing appropriate technical, human and financial resources, including through the Nuclear Security Fund, for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities and to enable the Agency to provide, upon request, the support needed by Member States,

- (r) Recognizing that nuclear security and safety measures have the common aim of protecting human health, society and the environment, while acknowledging the distinctions between the two areas, reaffirming the importance of coordination in this regard, and underlining the importance that, at the national level, both these areas are dealt with, appropriately, by governments and their competent authorities according to their respective competencies,
- (s) Noting the recommended requirements for measures to protect against sabotage of nuclear facilities and unauthorized removal of nuclear material in use, storage and transport included in IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 13 (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5), using inter alia a graded approach, as well as the ongoing work by the Agency on further guidance on their implementation, including during the processes of design, construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear facilities,
- (t) Reaffirming the importance and the value of the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, as approved by the Board of Governors in 2003, and underlining the important role of the revised supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, as approved by the Board of Governors in 2011,
- (u) Noting the importance of security of transport of nuclear and other radioactive material and stressing the need to take effective measures to protect nuclear and other radioactive material during transport against unauthorized removal or sabotage,
- (v) Reaffirming and respecting each Member States' choices in nuclear technology, encouraging Member States, to continue taking into account, along with other relevant factors, security aspects,
- (w) Noting the contribution of Member States' systems of accounting for and control of nuclear material to preventing loss of control and illicit trafficking and to deterring and detecting the unauthorized removal of nuclear material,
- (x) Recognizing physical protection as a key element of nuclear security,
- (y) Recognizing nuclear forensics as an important element of nuclear security,
- (z) Underlining the importance of Agency programmes for education and training in nuclear security, as well as other international, regional and national efforts to this end, and encouraging the Secretariat to continue the coordinated research projects (CRPs) in the field of nuclear security and to provide further information in this respect,
- (aa) Commending the work done by the Agency in providing, upon request, technical assistance and expert support to countries hosting major public events, and
- (bb) Stressing the essential importance of ensuring the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security,
1. Affirms the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security, while avoiding duplication and overlap;
  2. Calls upon the Secretariat to continue to organize International Conferences on Nuclear Security every three years and encourages all Member States to participate at a high level;
  3. Calls upon the Secretariat to continue to implement the Nuclear Security Plan 2014–2017 (GC(57)/19 and Corr.1) in a comprehensive manner and in close coordination with Member States;

4. Calls upon all Member States, within their responsibility, to achieve and maintain highly effective nuclear security, including physical protection, of nuclear and other radioactive material during use, storage and transport and of the associated facilities at all stages in their life cycle, as well as protecting sensitive information;
5. Calls upon Member States that have not yet done so to establish or designate, and sustain a competent authority or authorities responsible for the implementation of the legislative and regulatory framework, which is or are functionally independent in its or their regulatory decision-making from any other bodies that deal with the promotion or utilization of nuclear or other radioactive material, and which has or have the legal authority and the human, financial and technical resources necessary for fulfilling its or their responsibilities;
6. Calls upon all States to ensure that measures to strengthen nuclear security do not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and do not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme;
7. Calls upon all Member States to consider providing the necessary political, technical and financial support to efforts by the Agency to enhance nuclear security through various arrangements at the bilateral, regional and international levels, and recalls the decision of the Board of Governors on support for the Nuclear Security Fund;
8. Encourages Member States that have not yet done so to become party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), urges all Parties to the Convention to ratify, accept or approve its 2005 Amendment as soon as possible, encourages all Parties to the Convention to act in accordance with the objectives and purposes of the Amendment until such time as it enters into force, further encourages the Agency to continue efforts to promote the entry into force of the Amendment to the CPPNM at the earliest possible date, welcomes the organization by the Secretariat of the CPPNM meetings and encourages all Parties to the Convention to participate in those meetings;
9. Encourages all Member States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism as soon as possible;
10. Calls upon the Secretariat to further develop, with coordination and priority-setting by the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC), the publication of Nuclear Security Series guidance documents to facilitate the implementation of the Nuclear Security Fundamentals and Recommendations, and encourages further efforts of the Secretariat to enable representatives of all Member States to participate in the work of the NSGC;
11. Encourages the Secretariat, while recognizing the distinction between nuclear safety and nuclear security, to continue facilitating, in close cooperation with Member States, a coordination process relating to their interfaces, and encourages the Agency to continue to develop safety and security publications accordingly;
12. Calls upon all Member States to take into account information security, considering the balance between security and transparency as provided for in the IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 23-G;
13. Encourages all Member States to take into account, as appropriate, the Nuclear Security Series publications, including the Nuclear Security Fundamentals (IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 20), and to make use of them at their national discretion in their efforts to strengthen nuclear security;
14. Encourages the Secretariat to continue, in coordination with Member States, to play a constructive and coordinating role in other nuclear security-related initiatives, within their respective

mandates and memberships, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, and to work jointly, as appropriate, with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, and welcomes regular exchanges of information in that regard;

15. Encourages the Secretariat to promote international exchanges of experience, knowledge and good practices as regards ways to develop, foster and maintain a robust nuclear security culture compatible with States' nuclear security regimes;

16. Encourages the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States, to consider ways of further promoting and facilitating the exchange, on a voluntary basis, of information on the implementation of the international legal instruments relevant to nuclear security;

17. Encourages the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to continue its training and train-the-trainers programmes taking account of the IAEA Nuclear Security Series, and to adapt the courses as appropriate, within its mandate, to meet the needs of Member States;

18. Encourages ongoing initiatives of Member States, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to further enhance nuclear security culture, as well as skills and knowledge of personnel through nuclear security education and training, and through dialogue with the nuclear industry and collaborative international and regional networks, as appropriate, including through centres of excellence, Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs) and the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN), and taking into account and promoting relevant Nuclear Security Series publications, and requests the Secretariat to continue to report to the Board of Governors on its activities in this respect;

19. Encourages the Secretariat, in consultation with Member States, to increase its assistance to States, upon request, on the development and inculcation of a nuclear security culture, including through published guidance, provision of training and related self-assessment and training materials and tools;

20. Recognizes and supports the Agency's continuing work to assist, upon request, States' efforts to establish effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, to fulfil their obligations under United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, provided that the requests are within the scope of the Agency's statutory responsibilities;

21. Recognizes and supports the Agency's continuing work to assist, upon request, States' efforts to ensure the security of their nuclear and other radioactive material, including through the offer of assistance in the implementation of Agency Nuclear Security Fundamentals and Recommendations when radioactive material is supplied by the Agency, and through the provision of such assistance when requested;

22. Encourages States to make further use of assistance in the field of nuclear security, where such assistance is needed and requested, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs), and similarly encourages States in a position to do so to make available such assistance;

23. Encourages the Secretariat to assist Member States, where such assistance is requested, in the development of implementation strategies of their INSSPs in close consultation with the concerned Member State;

24. Encourages the Secretariat to further develop, in close consultation with Member States, a voluntary mechanism to match Member States' requests for assistance with other Member States' offers of assistance, and highlighting, in cooperation with the recipient State, the most urgent needs for assistance, with due regard to the confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security;

25. Calls upon the Agency to support continued dialogue on the security of radioactive sources and disused radioactive sources and to promote research and development in this field;
26. Invites States that have not yet done so to make political commitments to implement the non-legally-binding Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the revised supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, and encourages all States to further implement these instruments to maintain effective security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle;
27. Notes the discussion on the ongoing development of supplementary guidance to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources regarding the management of disused sealed sources;
28. Calls upon all Member States to ensure that there is adequate provision for safe and secure storage and disposition pathways for disused radioactive sealed sources so that such sources within their territories remain under regulatory control, and further encourages all Member States to develop arrangements, as practicable, to permit the return of disused sources to the supplier States or consider other options including the reuse or recycling of sources whenever possible;
29. Strongly encourages all States to improve and sustain, based on national security threat assessments, their national capabilities to prevent, detect, deter and respond to illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive material throughout their territories and to meet their relevant international obligations, and calls upon those States in a position to do so to work to enhance international partnerships and capacity building in this regard;
30. Notes the utility of the ITDB as a voluntary mechanism for the international exchange of information on incidents and illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material, encourages the Agency to further facilitate, including through designated Points of Contact, the timely exchange of information including through secured electronic access to information contained in the ITDB, and encourages all States to use, join and participate actively in the ITDB programme in support of their national efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to radioactive and nuclear materials that may have fallen out of regulatory control;
31. Encourages States to continue efforts on their territory to recover and secure nuclear and other radioactive material that has fallen out of regulatory control;
32. Calls upon all Member States to continue to take appropriate steps, consistent with the national legislation and regulation, to prevent, detect, and protect against insider threats at nuclear facilities and calls upon the Secretariat to advise Member States, upon request, on taking further preventive and protective measures against insider threats to enhance nuclear security, including through the use of Nuclear Material Accounting and Control for Nuclear Security Purposes at Facilities (IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 25-G);
33. Notes the Agency's efforts to raise awareness of the threat of cyber-attacks, and their potential impact on nuclear security, encourages States to take effective security measures against such attacks, and encourages the Agency to continue its efforts to strengthen computer security as one of the important elements of nuclear security, to improve international cooperation, to bring together experts and policy-makers to promote the exchange of information and experiences, to develop appropriate guidance and to assist Member States, upon request, in this area by providing training courses and hosting further expert meetings specific to the computer security of nuclear facilities;
34. Welcomes the Agency's work of promotion and support in the field of nuclear forensics, including through the development of guidance, further requests the Secretariat to assist interested Member States, upon their request, through the provision of education and training, and encourages

Member States to share experiences and knowledge in nuclear forensics with due regard of the principle of confidentiality, and, if they have not yet done so, to consider establishing, where practical, national nuclear material databases or national nuclear forensics libraries;

35. Encourages the Member States concerned, on a voluntary basis, to further minimize highly enriched uranium (HEU) in civilian stocks and use low enriched uranium (LEU) where technically and economically feasible;

36. Encourages Member States to voluntarily use the Agency's nuclear security advisory services for exchanges of views and advice on nuclear security measures, welcomes the increased recognition of the value of IPPAS (International Physical Protection Advisory Service) and INSServ (International Nuclear Security Advisory Service) missions by Member States, and notes with appreciation the organization by the Agency of meetings to allow interested Member States to share experience and lessons learned, with due regard to the principle of confidentiality, and to make recommendations for improvements of IPPAS and INSServ missions;

37. Encourages the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to continue to develop and promote self-assessment methodologies and approaches that are based on Nuclear Security Series documents and can be used by Member States on a voluntary basis to ensure effective and sustainable national nuclear security infrastructure;

38. Supports the steps taken by the Secretariat to ensure confidentiality of information relevant to nuclear security and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to implement appropriate confidentiality measures in conformity with the Agency's confidentiality regime and to report as appropriate to the Board of Governors on the status of the implementation of the confidentiality measures;

39. Requests the Director General to submit an annual Nuclear Security Report to the General Conference at its sixtieth (2016) regular session on activities undertaken by the Agency in the area of nuclear security, and on external users of ITDB and on past and planned activities of educational, training and collaborative networks, as well as highlighting significant accomplishments of the previous year within the framework of the Nuclear Security Plan and indicating programmatic goals and priorities for the year to come;

40. Requests the Secretariat to report on the preparation, in close consultation with Member States, of the next International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in December 2016 in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Ministerial Declaration of the International Conference on Nuclear Security adopted in July 2013; and

41. Requests the Secretariat to implement the actions called for in this resolution in a prioritized manner within available resources.