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Item 5 of the Board's provisional agenda
(GOV/2024/52)
Item 14 of the Conference's provisional agenda
(GC(68)/1 and Add.1)

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future

20-24 May 2024

Report by the Director General

Summary

The International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS 2024), held at the Agency's Headquarters in Vienna, from 20–24 May 2024, brought together experts, policymakers and senior officials from around the world to share lessons learned, address emerging challenges and discuss the future of nuclear security. With over 2000 registered participants from 142 Member States and 16 invited organizations, including 48 ministers, vice-ministers and other high ranking officials, the conference provided a dynamic platform for participants to engage in forward-thinking discussions, share valuable insights and experiences, and work towards solutions to the challenges that the nuclear security community collectively faces.

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A. Introduction

1. The International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future (ICONS 2024) was held at the Agency's Headquarters in Vienna from 20– 24 May 2024. This was the fourth quadrennial ministerial conference on nuclear security convened by the Agency, following those held in July 2013, December 2016 and February 2020.¹ It had a high level of attendance that was sustained throughout the conference week, and attracted representatives and stakeholders from a wide range of entities that support or are actively engaged in nuclear security activities worldwide, including regulatory bodies; national competent authorities; national security and crisis management agencies; law enforcement and border control agencies; industry; and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2. The conference attracted over 2000 registered participants, including 17 ministers, 21 vice-ministers and 10 other high ranking officials. These record breaking statistics underscore the importance of the conference as the largest and foremost global forum for nuclear security practitioners, while demonstrating the widespread recognition among members of the international community that nuclear security is a topic that requires constant attention, discussion and international dialogue. Conference panellists and participants consistently stressed the need for the Agency to continue organizing periodic international workshops, meetings and forums such as the conference in order to share best practices and foster continued and meaningful international cooperation.

3. The Secretariat made a concerted effort throughout all phases of planning to ensure that participants represented a range of backgrounds and levels of expertise, from senior policymakers, industry leaders and established nuclear security specialists to rising experts and future leaders in the field. In total, 142 Member States and 16 invited organizations participated in the conference, and 34% of registered participants were women. Representatives from 89 Member States delivered presentations during the scientific and technical segment of the conference. Sessions during that segment were moderated by session chairs from 41 Member States and invited organizations. This approach ensured the diversity not only of the participants but of the ideas and perspectives discussed at all of the conference's panels and sessions.

4. The conference's core theme of "Shaping the Future" inspired many of the activities and discussions that took place as part of the conference programme. Preference was given to papers and side events that focused on addressing emerging threats and sought to engage in discussions about the

¹ The Agency held an International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2005, although it is not formally recognized as part of this series.

challenges of tomorrow. This general orientation towards the future allowed for participants to share experiences, achievements and lessons learned since the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020), while concurrently shifting the international community's focus to the potential challenges ahead. ICONS 2024 thus served as a vehicle through which ministers, policymakers, senior officials and nuclear security experts could continue developing shared approaches to existing threats, while formulating cooperative strategies to prepare for the challenges of the future.

5. The conference was organized into two distinct yet overlapping parts: the ministerial segment and the scientific and technical segment. The ministerial segment took place from 20–21 May, while the scientific and technical segment ran from 21 May to the close of the conference.²

B. Ministerial Segment



The IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi at the opening of the ministerial segment of ICONS 2024.

6. The conference opened with a two-day ministerial segment presided over by the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, HE Mr Tim Watts MP, and the Vice-Minister of Energy for Kazakhstan, HE Mr Sungat Yessimkhanov, who assumed the role of the Co-Presidents of the conference. In the months leading up to the conference, the Resident Representatives of Australia and Kazakhstan, HE Mr Ian Biggs and HE Mr Mukhtar Tileuberdi, co-chaired the preparatory meetings and open-ended working groups for Member States, culminating in the development of a Co-Presidents' Joint Statement on nuclear security. The Joint Statement is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

7. The ministerial segment opened with addresses by the IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and the Co-Presidents of the conference. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, HE Ms Ana-Cristina Tinca, and the Permanent Representative of Panama to the Agency,

² The full conference programme can be found on the conference website: <https://www.iaea.org/events/icons2024>.

HE Mr Dario Chiru Ochoa, also delivered statements as representatives of the Co-Presidents of ICONS 2020.

8. In the ministerial segment, more than 100 statements were delivered by ministers and other heads of delegation, including 99 national statements, 3 joint statements and 2 statements from international organizations. Many representatives acknowledged the importance of nuclear security in ensuring the continued peaceful use of nuclear technology, while reaffirming their respective national commitments to uphold the global nuclear security regime. Representatives consistently recognized and supported the Agency's central role in fostering international cooperation and in supporting Member States to strengthen their national nuclear security regimes.

9. The ministerial segment featured three unique events that focused on engaging ministers and other heads of delegation on specific topics related to nuclear security.

10. On Monday, 20 May, a plenary panel discussion entitled "Securing Sustainable Progress: the Important Role of Nuclear Security in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals" was held. Participants noted the critical but less visible ways in which nuclear security enables the global pursuit of development goals, emphasizing that Member States actively utilizing nuclear applications in the agricultural and health sectors must work to implement effective and robust nuclear security measures.



The IAEA Director General at a high level panel discussion during a special event hosted on the first day of ICONS 2024.

11. On 20 May, the Secretariat organized an event outside the Vienna International Centre for ministers and other heads of delegation entitled "Beyond Borders — A Collaborative Discourse on the Future of Nuclear Security". This included a round table discussion in which panellists emphasized that nuclear security is an issue that transcends national borders and requires cooperative approaches to potentially transnational threats. This high level event was very well attended, attracting more than 180 participants from 64 Member States and 3 invited organizations.

12. On Tuesday, 21 May, ministers and other heads of delegation were invited to attend an interactive ministerial session during which participants were guided through two fictional scenarios and asked to submit responses to prompts given by a moderator. The session encouraged open discourse and dialogue among high level officials while highlighting the importance of the international legal instruments that underpin and reinforce global nuclear security. The event attracted 138 participants from 61 Member States and 3 invited organizations, and resulted in highly engaging discussions.

C. Scientific and Technical Segment

13. The scientific and technical segment of the programme began on the morning of Tuesday, 21 May. The scientific and technical segment was opened with remarks by the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, Ms Lydie Evrard, the Director of the Division of Nuclear Security, Ms Elena Buglova, and the Scientific Secretary, Ms Sara Mroz.

14. The scientific and technical programme included 4 plenary panels, 52 technical sessions, 1 ‘flash presentation’ event, and 45 side events organized by Member States, NGOs and the Agency. Fifty-two technical sessions and 4 plenary panels were organized into 4 overarching conference themes:

- Policy, law and regulations for nuclear security;
- Technology and infrastructure for nuclear security prevention, detection and response;
- Capacity building for nuclear security; and
- Cross-cutting nuclear security topics.

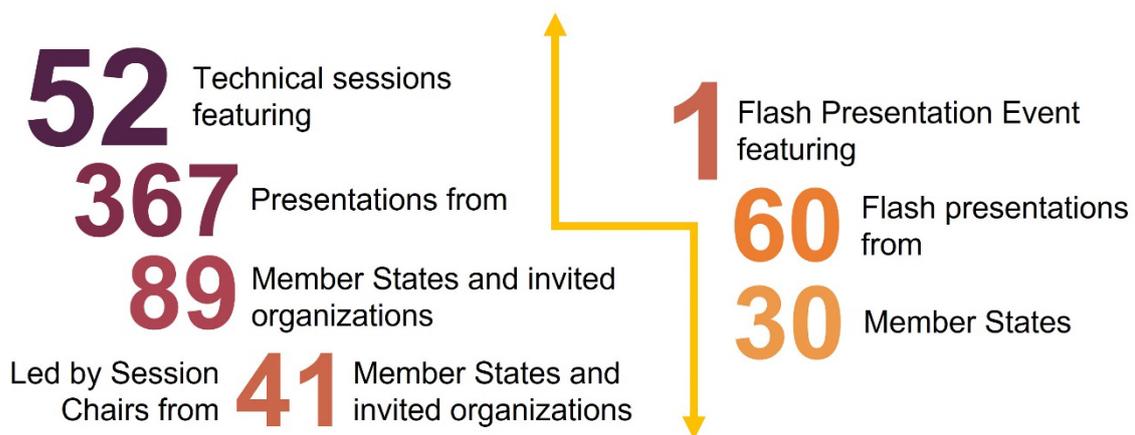
15. Plenary panels were held on each morning of the scientific and technical segment. Each of the topics discussed during the four plenary panels aligned with one of the four themes. In order to encourage free-flowing, innovative and engaging discussions, the plenary panels followed the same moderator-led discussion format as the ministerial segment plenary panel and the offsite event panel. In total, 43% of the panellists for these discussions were female.

- On Tuesday, 21 May, the plenary panel “Policy, Law and Regulations in an Evolving Nuclear Security Landscape” was held. The panellists explored the challenges associated with developing, implementing and adapting policy, law and regulatory frameworks in a rapidly changing international landscape. Notably, all panellists stressed the importance of international instruments such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
- On Wednesday, 22 May, the plenary panel “Managing the Threats and Benefits of Emerging Technologies” was held. The panellists discussed different new and emerging technologies including artificial intelligence (AI) and small modular reactors (SMRs). The panellists emphasized the importance of assistance projects, knowledge sharing and training in order to ensure that new technologies are regulated and employed in responsible and secure manners, enabling practitioners to confront the challenges of the future.
- On Thursday, 23 May, the plenary panel “Shaping the Future: Retaining and Developing the Nuclear Security Workforce of Tomorrow” was held. The panellists discussed problems faced by the nuclear sector in training and retaining the current workforce, obstacles to training new employees, and preparation of the next generation to handle new and emerging challenges.

- On Friday, 24 May, the plenary panel “Looking Forward: the Evolving Role of the IAEA” was held. The panellists shared experiences with IAEA services and assessed ways in which the IAEA’s role may adapt in the future. Considerations for future activities of the IAEA were discussed. All panellists agreed that no matter what the future holds, the IAEA must continue to play a central role in advancing global nuclear security to enable the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies.

16. Following the plenary sessions, parallel technical sessions and side events were held during each day of the scientific and technical segment. Three hundred and sixty-seven presentations were delivered by participants from 89 Member States and invited organizations over the course of the technical programme, covering a wide array of forward-leaning topics ranging from computer security and AI to uncrewed systems and SMRs.

17. In an effort to foster the exchange of ideas among experts from around the world, the ‘printed poster’ presentation format was not used at the conference. Instead, to provide opportunities for authors to present their work to their peers, individuals whose abstract had been accepted for a poster presentation were invited to present their work during a ‘flash presentation’ event. Sixty such presentations from 30 Member States were grouped by conference theme and delivered consecutively in a dedicated room. Once all the presentations had been delivered, experts were given time to network with the presenters and share ideas related to the content of their work.



Overview of the scientific and technical programme at ICONS 2024.

18. The programme was supplemented by 45 diverse side events that addressed a variety of critical nuclear security issues, initiatives and/or projects. Side events included tours of the Agency’s recently inaugurated Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre, which was visited by more than 100 conference participants.

19. The programme was further supplemented by 50 exhibits organized by the Agency, Member States, organizations and vendors to showcase different elements of nuclear security, including new types of equipment with cutting-edge technologies for use by nuclear security practitioners.

20. In keeping with the conference’s core theme and in order to meaningfully engage and recruit the next generation of nuclear security specialists, the conference featured the Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future initiative. From an applicant pool of more than 200 university students and early career professionals, 24 participants (9 men and 15 women) from 19 countries were selected to form the delegation. The delegation took an active role in the conference throughout the week, participating in

career workshops, attending networking events and supporting assigned technical sessions as assistant technical officers. In advance of the conference, the delegation met in a virtual format several times to develop a statement on nuclear security, which was delivered during the closing plenary session. The statement is attached as Annex 2 to this report.



The ICONS 2024 Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future.

21. The closing plenary session took place in the afternoon of Friday, 24 May and was extremely well attended, demonstrating the sustained high level of interest and engagement among participants throughout the week. Following the delivery of the statement by the Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future, HE Mr Ian Biggs and HE Mr Mukhtar Tileuberdi delivered closing remarks as representatives of the Co-Presidents of the Conference. The conference was officially declared closed by the Director General.

D. Way Forward

22. The proceedings of the conference will be published and made available on the conference website.

23. Where appropriate, the outcomes of the conference, including messages delivered as part of national statements, will be taken into account by the Secretariat when defining priorities for activity areas in the Nuclear Security Plan 2026–2029.

ANNEX 1

International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024: *Shaping the Future*

Statement by the Co-Presidents

1. We the Co-Presidents of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future, reiterate our commitment to sustain and strengthen effective and comprehensive nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities.
2. We reassert that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State in accordance with its respective national and international obligations, mindful of the sovereign rights of every Member State.
3. We reaffirm the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recognize that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security, and stress that progress in nuclear disarmament is critically needed and will continue to be addressed in all relevant fora, consistent with the relevant obligations and commitments of Member States.
4. We acknowledge that nuclear security measures may enhance public confidence in the peaceful use of nuclear applications. We also acknowledge that those applications contribute to Member States' sustainable development and we should ensure that measures to strengthen nuclear security do not hamper international cooperation in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear applications.
5. We remain concerned about existing and emerging nuclear security risks and threats and commit to addressing them. We recognize that emerging and innovative technologies, inter alia artificial intelligence, present potential challenges and benefits. In this regard, we further recognize the importance of international cooperation in support of national nuclear security regimes, to help us maximize benefits while addressing challenges.
6. We support the work of the IAEA in assisting Member States, upon request, in establishing and improving effective and sustainable national nuclear security regimes, including through guidance development, advisory services, and capacity building, and accordingly its central role in facilitating and coordinating international cooperation to strengthen nuclear security, as well as its role in facilitating, as appropriate, regional activities.
7. We recognize physical protection as a key element in nuclear security, and support the further development of the IAEA's assistance in the relevant areas of importance to Member States to include prevention, deterrence, detection, access delay and response.
8. We emphasize that any attacks or threats of attacks against nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful purposes may compromise nuclear security and recall our commitments in this regard. We note General Conference resolutions GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533 and the 2009 General Conference unanimous decision GC(53)/DEC/13.
9. We recognize the need to ensure resilience in national nuclear security regimes and emergency preparedness in all circumstances, including extraordinary circumstances. We note the IAEA Director General's "seven indispensable pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict".

10. We encourage Member States to implement threat mitigation and risk reduction measures that contribute to improving nuclear security including, but not limited to, ensuring the protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials and facilities in accordance with national legislation.

11. We call upon all Member States possessing HEU and separated plutonium in any application, which require special precautions to ensure their nuclear security, to make sure they are appropriately secured and accounted for, by and in the relevant State, and we encourage Member States, on a voluntary basis, to further minimize HEU in civilian stocks, when technically and economically feasible.

12. We emphasize the importance of nuclear security considerations in the context of the growing interest in the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies and reactors, including Small and Modular Reactors (SMRs), in accordance with the respective obligations of Member States.

13. We recognize the threats to computer security and from cyber-attacks at nuclear facilities, as well as their associated activities including the production, use, storage and transport of nuclear and radioactive materials, and highlight the need by Member States to continue addressing computer security risks when strengthening the protection of sensitive information and computer-based systems, and encourage the IAEA to continue to foster international cooperation and to assist Member States, upon request, in this regard.

14. We reaffirm the importance of continuing to promote the universalization and implementation by its States Parties of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. We note the convening of the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the CPPNM which concluded that the Convention as amended was adequate and look forward to the second Conference of the Parties and the review of the implementation and adequacy of the Convention. We also reaffirm the importance of other relevant international legal instruments, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

15. We commit to maintaining effective security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle, consistent with the objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance documents.

16. We emphasize the importance of security in the transport of nuclear and other radioactive material and, in recognition of the continuous increase in the amount of such material, stress the need for Member States to take effective measures, consistent with their international and domestic obligations.

17. We encourage the IAEA to continue facilitating, in close cooperation with Member States, a coordination process to address the interface between nuclear security and nuclear safety, as appropriate.

18. We reiterate our commitment to combatting illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material and to ensure that the material cannot be used by non-State actors for malicious purposes and encourage Member States to continue sharing relevant information, on a voluntary basis, including through relevant channels. The States providing notifications to databases are responsible for accuracy, objectivity and purely technical character of this information.

19. We support the IAEA's and Member States' efforts to strengthen nuclear security culture in the framework of organizational culture in a balanced and risk-informed manner, and also insider threat prevention and mitigation, in particular through providing education and training opportunities, and note the contribution of other relevant institutional entities, such as regulators and industry, in this regard.

20. We welcome the opening of the IAEA Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC), thereby complementing the existing work of Member States' nuclear security support centres, Centres of Excellence, and IAEA Collaborating Centres, and supporting the IAEA's efforts in

capacity building to strengthen national nuclear security regimes, thus emphasizing the importance that Member States support the centre.

21. We encourage the IAEA Secretariat and Member States to continue their efforts in education and development of current and future generations of nuclear security professionals.

22. We encourage Member States to use and contribute to the IAEA's nuclear security review missions and advisory services, on a voluntary basis.

23. We call upon Member States to support and contribute, as appropriate, to the IAEA's nuclear security activities by providing experts and sharing national expertise, best practices, lessons learned, as well as highlighting recent successes, with due regard to the protection of sensitive and confidential information.

24. We recognize the Nuclear Security Fund as an important instrument for the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear security. We will continue to provide, on a voluntary basis, funds to the Nuclear Security Fund, as well as technical and human resources, as appropriate for the IAEA to implement its work in nuclear security and to provide, upon request, the support needed by Member States.

25. We commit to promote equitable geographical distribution and gender equality in the context of IAEA's nuclear security activities, and encourage Member States to establish an inclusive workforce within their national nuclear security regimes, including ensuring equal access to education and training.

26. We call upon the IAEA Secretariat and Member States to take this Statement into account in the consultation process between the Secretariat and the Member States during the development of the IAEA's 2026 – 2029 Nuclear Security Plan, while also considering the proceedings of this conference, as appropriate.

27. We call upon the IAEA to continue to improve communication with Member States about its nuclear security activities and to facilitate the exchange of technical and scientific information on nuclear and radiation technology options in the field of nuclear security.

28. We call upon the IAEA to continue to organize international conferences on Nuclear Security every four years and encourage all Member States to participate at a Ministerial level.

ANNEX 2

International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024: *Shaping the Future*

Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future Statement

The Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future is a diverse team of twenty-four young nuclear security professionals from nineteen countries, identified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) through a competitive application process as part of an inaugural initiative organized for the 4th International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) 2024: Shaping the Future.

We, the Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future, acknowledge that the ICONS 2024 theme of “Shaping the Future” provides an opportunity for intergenerational dialogue and cooperation in order to achieve peace and security worldwide. We believe that including young, early career professionals into the heart of these discussions is essential.

We collaborated closely for three months, drawing on our individual academic and professional backgrounds to discuss the future of nuclear security, to harmonize our perspectives and to ultimately present our deliberations at ICONS 2024. Through this joint effort, our Delegation tangibly demonstrates cooperative global leadership among young nuclear security professionals while actively contributing to the international discussion on nuclear security.

The Nuclear Security Delegation for the Future Statement addresses four sub-areas: global communication; emerging technologies and artificial intelligence; capacity building; and how to make nuclear security inclusive for all.

Global Communication for Nuclear Security

1. We urge the international community to endeavor to amend global perceptions on nuclear technologies through education and knowledge sharing, both about these technologies’ benefits and about the measures that are taken to manage the risks.
2. We advocate for the recognition of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards as unavoidably connected and as critical for the protection of the people, environment and society.
3. We call upon Member States to facilitate transparency in the field, and to continue public engagement through effective communication strategies and outreach programs in order to facilitate the understanding of nuclear risks and related mitigation strategies implemented by the global community.
4. We reassert the need for international cooperation across borders, which encompasses sharing knowledge, best practices and lessons learned from incidents, as well as taking collective action to enhance nuclear security, thereby ensuring a safer and more secure world for generations to come.
5. We recognize the importance of academic research, collaborations, and training to advance nuclear security. These contributions drive innovation, foster interdisciplinary approaches, develop cutting-edge technologies and prepare the next generation of professionals to address emerging threats. These efforts are essential for ensuring the continued protection of nuclear material and facilities.
6. We stress the importance of international treaties, agreements, and regulatory frameworks in promoting global nuclear security standards and best practices. We also acknowledge the persistent

challenges posed by the evolving nature of international relations. We call upon Member States to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear technology through the strengthening of international legal frameworks in order to meet the shifting needs of the global community.

7. We uphold the value of intergenerational discussion and call for the next generation of nuclear professionals to become stakeholders in nuclear security policy and decision-making discussions.

Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Nuclear Security

8. The development of novel designs of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) raises important security considerations in many areas, including facility operations, transportation, and waste storage. Security requirements and recommendations must evolve alongside technological advancements. Addressing these evolving challenges presents opportunities for young professionals to influence the future of nuclear security.

9. The pivotal role that SMRs and AMRs will play in shaping our sustainable energy future will be driven by young nuclear security professionals whose essential expertise will ensure these transformative technologies can be deployed safely and securely.

10. We firmly believe in empowering young professionals to actively participate in the forefront of nuclear security research and to engage in conferences, seminars, and webinars dedicated to nuclear security, SMRs, and advanced reactors in order to stay apprised of latest developments in the field.

11. We highlight the importance of international cooperation. We, the next generation, are eager to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing on SMR/AMR technologies, safety standards, nuclear security guidance and non-proliferation efforts globally.

12. We similarly recognize the dual nature of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI could greatly benefit the field of nuclear security if designed, developed, and deployed securely; however, the speed and scale at which AI is developing poses a potential grave threat which needs to be addressed.

13. We call upon Member States to cooperate to mitigate this potential threat, and to jointly pledge to utilize technologies like AI solely for peaceful purposes. We advocate for the promotion of the peaceful uses of emerging technology through the strengthening of international legal frameworks, and urge states to never use such technology to target critical infrastructure.

14. We urge the international nuclear security community to continue to invest in and maintain analogue and legacy security systems in order to ensure continued operability, sustained security, and the diversity of operational technology.

15. We ask that the next generation of nuclear security professionals be involved in decision-making on the use of emerging technologies. We, the next generation, will inherit the consequences of their development. As such, we must be given the power and resources to guide and influence this process.

Capacity Building for Nuclear Security

16. We consider attracting young talent to nuclear security to be a priority.

17. We believe that through targeted outreach and engagement strategies, young individuals at various educational levels should be presented with opportunities to join the nuclear security sector and be introduced to pathways into this field.

18. We recognize that recruiting, retaining and developing talented individuals, particularly the younger generations entering the nuclear field, can be a challenging endeavor. We call for the IAEA and Member States to explore how to tailor engagement strategies to recruit the next generation into

nuclear security. This includes utilizing educational games, social media outreach, and other opportunities beyond conventional governmental frameworks.

19. We need to ensure that young talent has the support and resources to forge pathways into leadership roles. As the workforce is maturing, youth voices will become the decision-making bodies of the future, and equipping them with the tools to effectively lead is essential.

20. We ask that the efforts which are put into training and educating these individuals reflect the importance of their presence in the nuclear security field. Technical exchanges, cross-sector collaborations and other developmental opportunities need to be plentiful and made available to everyone entering the field. Younger generations should have equitable access to nuclear security training and workshops.

21. We encourage interdisciplinary collaboration by integrating young professionals from adjacent fields, including IT and engineering, into roles associated with nuclear security. This approach not only broadens perspectives but also fosters sustainable solutions to nuclear security challenges. The future of nuclear security requires a variety of disciplines working in parallel and across safety-security interfaces in order to create a unified approach. Such collaborative efforts will enable technological applications that were previously thought not possible.

Nuclear Security For All

22. We, the Delegation for the Future, highlight that nuclear security should be a priority national concern due to its global implications. Existing and newly developed national standards and regulations should be oriented towards upholding international legal instruments, to include the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment. If we allow discrepancies in implementation to increase, there exists the likelihood for potential threats to endanger current and future generations.

23. We, as a transnational delegation, are driven by a vision that transcends borders and which emphasizes cooperative approaches that bolster nuclear security for all. We note the importance of building upon the foundations of traditional approaches to Nuclear Security while also adapting to confront new and emerging challenges.

24. We encourage a holistic approach to nuclear security which above all else empowers all communities, thereby guaranteeing their rightful inclusion in the nuclear security dialogue.

25. We plead with Member States to deepen cooperation to assure the continued safe and secure operations of nuclear power plants, even in extraordinary circumstances. It is equally important to learn from these consequential incidents and establish comprehensive nuclear security guidelines with the appropriate oversight and direction to continue learning from these experiences.

26. We urge Member States to increase international nuclear security personnel training. These collaborative efforts will ensure that technical staff (including first responders and security forces) are prepared with pre-established cooperation frameworks to counter myriad scenarios and threats to critical nuclear infrastructure. Collaboration fosters a sense of shared responsibility and increases knowledge sharing, thereby enhancing the overall security landscape.

27. Increased diversity is an essential part of our future strategy as it leads to better decisions and more positive outcomes. The global community must continue on its upward trajectory of increasing diversity in the nuclear security sector in pursuit of a world in which all can benefit from nuclear technologies, and in which no one is left behind.

We implore you to consider our appeals as it is our future at risk.

We are thankful for the IAEA for launching this exceptional opportunity for young professionals to gain real world experience in leadership, diplomacy, and international nuclear security. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff of the Division of Nuclear Security and the Conference Secretariat: Mr Bryan Denehy, Mr Christian Deura, Ms Sara Mroz and Mr Sanjai Padmanabhan for their exceptional support through the Delegation for the Future deliberations and development of this Statement.

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