



**Australian National Statement
International Conference on Nuclear Security
July 2013**

Mr President, Ministers, Director General, Distinguished Colleagues.

We commend Director General Amano for his initiative and commitment in convening this International Conference on Nuclear Security, which includes a Ministerial component for the first time.

Mr President

The consequences of failure to prevent even a single terrorist incident involving nuclear or radioactive materials would be devastating. But, in a globalised world, prevention cannot be achieved through national efforts alone. Australia is committed to international efforts, including through forums such as this conference, to forging the strongest possible cooperation and sharing of expertise among nations that will prevent such incidents.

Application of nuclear security from sound governance to sustainable physical protection measures is a daily responsibility that needs to go hand-in-hand with other nuclear activities, including the application of safeguards and nuclear and radiation safety.

Australia has contributed actively to the development of the international legal framework to ensure security of nuclear and other radioactive materials. In particular, Australia was deeply involved in the negotiation of the 2005 amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and was among the first ratifying States. We join others in calling upon all States that have not yet done so, to become party to, and fully implement, the Amendment.

Mr President

Australia recognises the benefit of sharing experience in nuclear security implementation and practice, and encourages the sharing of such information, as well as the provision of other assurances, that will allow states to gain confidence about each other's security arrangements. For its part, Australia hosted a regional workshop on IPPAS missions last year, and now looks forward to hosting its first IPPAS mission in November this year. We thank the IAEA for providing this service.

We also focus on implementation, capacity building and supporting nuclear security partnerships. For example, Australia is pleased to chair the Nuclear Forensics Working Group of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and has a long history of providing regional outreach and training on nuclear security especially regarding radioactive sources. Australia also encourages increased links with industry and forging

partnerships that foster innovation and efficiency in the on-the-ground implementation of nuclear security.

Mr President

Looking to the future, Australia strongly supports the Director General's proposal to elevate the Office of Nuclear Security to a Division within the IAEA. The IAEA has been instrumental in the development of guidance documents and in the provision of nuclear security-related technical assistance, which is greatly appreciated.

Finally, as we reflect on the advances in nuclear security through the presentations and discussions at this conference, we must not lose sight of the unfortunate fact that adversaries will evolve and new threats will emerge. We need to be vigilant and ensure that the IAEA is also able to address these nuclear security challenges. Australia stands ready to play its part.

Thank you Mr President.