

*Speech by State Secretary Jürgen Becker at the IAEA
Conference*

*International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Enhancing Global Efforts*

1-5 July 2013, Vienna

President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

I.

On behalf of the German government I would first like to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Director General Yukiya Amano for organising this comprehensive and ambitious conference.

We would like to see such conferences take place at regular intervals, in order to ensure that this exchange among political decision-makers and technical experts continues under the umbrella of the IAEA in future. For Germany, the IAEA is and will remain the most important body for nuclear security at international level.

II.

In Germany's view the CPPNM, and especially its 2005 amendment, provides the main internationally binding legal basis for nuclear security.

For this reason we advocate the speedy ratification of this amendment worldwide, and support IAEA efforts to achieve the necessary quorum as quickly as possible. Among these efforts are the regional workshops, and the fact that Germany has provided funding for a workshop each in Europe, South America and Africa confirms our keen interest in the CPPNM amendment entering into force as quickly as possible.

I call on all states that have not yet ratified the amendment to establish the legal and technical requirements as quickly as possible, so that, after nearly ten years, the amended convention can enter into force.

The publications in the Nuclear Security Series are a useful aid to fleshing out the commitments which arise from the CPPNM. Further developing and completing these documents is a matter of considerable importance

for the German government and a goal which we strongly support.

In our view the successful launch of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee last year and the cooperation with other panels on safety standards take an important step in the right direction. This makes the development of guidelines on nuclear security transparent, and sends a key signal with regard to its importance.

Germany furthermore welcomes the many initiatives and programmes offered by the IAEA to support member states. One important example of this is information sharing, for instance through the Incident and Trafficking Database, or the Nuclear Security Information Portal, to which Germany contributed over 500,000 Euros for updating measures.

Another key area of support is the provision of training in member states through workshops, courses and collaborative programmes.

Germany regularly supports IAEA projects through the Nuclear Security Fund. In autumn 2009, Germany pledged 10 million euros as its voluntary contribution: 5 million of this was allocated to the IAEA Safeguards Laboratory in Seibersdorf, the remaining 5 million were used for various projects run by the IAEA Office of Nuclear Security, whose work we very much appreciate.

Projects funded include the retrieval and securing of high level radioactive sources in a number of countries assistance in compiling the IAEA global register of radioactive sources, and an IAEA project to monitor the import and export of radioactive materials into and from Libya, which we supported with 550,000 euros.

III.

In Germany's view, the particular challenges of the future in nuclear security will be nuclear cyber security and the security of other radioactive material, especially high level radioactive sources.

The need for nuclear cyber security arises from continuously growing cyber threats and an increasing use and rapid development of complex digital components in nuclear facilities.

I expressly welcome the efforts the IAEA has already made in this field.

Nevertheless, I feel that further action must be urged: to continue to support the technical expert exchange in the many specialist field, to further develop IAEA guidance on cyber security and to expand the available expertise on nuclear cyber security for the IPPAS missions.

Alongside these IAEA steps, I would ask each of the member states to take cyber threats seriously and meet the resulting risks with the same determination that is demonstrated on other security issues.

IV.

At the first Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in 2010, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel already highlighted the considerable dangers which can arise from the malicious use of radioactive sources – for instance, a dirty bomb. For this reason, adequate security measures must be in place in the mostly public areas where such sources are handled – for instance, hospitals, sections of industry and research.

At the second Security Summit in Seoul in March 2012, Germany presented a document entitled "Security of Radioactive Sources", containing an inventory of the international legal framework for security and giving concrete proposals for improving it. I expressly call on all states, where they have not already done so, to implement these recommendations in concrete national measures.

Germany is currently reassessing the radiological risks of radioactive sources, in particular with a view to their potential danger in the case of malicious use to adjust

national provisions on securing radioactive sources in an appropriate manner.

V.

As a step to ensuring quality control in our diverse efforts on nuclear security, Germany plans to host an IPPAS mission in the coming year.

We see the IPPAS mission as a successful IAEA service which provides direct assistance to member states and helps to raise the level of security throughout the world; and we welcome the review of the documentation required for the IPPAS mission. The main focus of the mission in Germany will be the evaluation of security of a power plant in operation and its on-site interim storage facility, and the revised guidelines on cyber security and their implementation.

President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
for Germany, nuclear security remains an indispensable
prerequisite for effective nuclear non-proliferation.
That is why we will continue to do all we can to support
IAEA efforts to improve global nuclear security.

I am looking forward to intensive and fruitful discussions,
and am certain that this conference will make a key
contribution to enhancing worldwide protection against
terrorist acts using nuclear or other radioactive material.

Thank you very much for your attention.