



Speech by
H.E. Mr. Makram Queisi,
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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Mr. President

Excellencies;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to address such a distinguished gathering representing top officials from all of the areas involved in policy making and management of nuclear security to review the international community's experience and achievements in strengthening nuclear security. It will also be an opportunity to enhance understanding of current approaches to nuclear security worldwide and provide a global forum for ministers, policymakers and senior officials to formulate views on the future directions and priorities for nuclear security.

On this occasion, I would like to join other speakers in congratulating you Mr. President on your election to preside over this conference and to assure you the full support and cooperation of my delegation in the fulfillment of your important and responsible task.

I would also like to thank Director General Yukiya Amano, and the IAEA secretariat for organizing this important Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This conference represents a forum to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism; and secondly, to identify and put in place measures to enhance secure and safe management of nuclear facilities, thirdly, to boost our joint and concrete efforts to prevent illegal trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials.

Jordan continues to support our collective implementation of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit Work plan and the objectives set forth in the two summit communiqués; Recognizing the need for all states, not just the Nuclear Security Summit participants, to be involved in this important field. And therefore, we welcome the initiative by the IAEA to host this Ministerial Meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jordan's civilian nuclear program is still in its infancy, but we are confident we are approaching our nuclear responsibilities maturely, recognizing not just the weight of our obligations under the CPPNM and Security Council resolution 1540 but also that in the short term our challenge lies in preventing the trafficking materials from outside Jordan across our territories. Like other strategically located states we are giving special priority to this issue.

In the second nuclear security summit held last year in Seoul, His Majesty King Abdullah II announced that Jordan would begin to create a Counter-Nuclear Smuggling Team, consisting of officials and experts drawn from all relevant national security institutions, including customs and Interpol liaison officer. We recognize the magnitude of the threat that nuclear material “on the loose” and in the hands of non-state actors poses to the national security of every country, whether or not a country enjoys the benefits of nuclear energy. It is the responsibility of all states to prevent the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials into, across, or out of their respective countries. Our planet simply cannot risk otherwise!

In establishing this counter nuclear smuggling team, and making it fully operational, Jordan has begun to work with Interpol and countries with experience in this field, and we will seek the advice and support of the IAEA. In this regard we will be deepening collective efforts after the next seven months and we look forward to report on our efforts on the The Hague summit. We call upon all member states to join us and get involved in actions to build national capacities to counter nuclear smuggling, improving laws, regulations and policies to combat illicit trafficking, improving the sharing of information between us and Interpol as a mechanism to timely identify smuggling networks. We also believe more needs to be done to strengthen the effectiveness of the ITDB.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We support the introduction of further international assurances within a broader nuclear security dialogue although we acknowledge we may need a different term to “assurances” that captures accurately what we mean; I believe we all mean the building of confidence. We are also interested in the IPASS missions conducted by the Agency and will seek to learn more from the Agency’s experience in this field.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While we have ratified the CPPNM we still have to ratify the 2005 amendment and we will continue to exert all efforts to achieve this as soon as it is possible to do so.

In conclusion, we hope that this Ministerial Conference on nuclear security, with your participation, will be successful in establishing a free platform for a dialogue which is based on transparency and clarity, noting that the driving force of creative opportunities lies in effective partnership to achieve the best results.

Thank you