

**Statement by Mr Andrejs Pildegovičs,
State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia,
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts
IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
1–5 July 2013**

Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Latvia compliments the IAEA for convening this *timely and much-needed* conference. The IAEA as a long-standing multilateral organisation with nearly universal membership and an internationally recognised central role in the nuclear field is an inevitable forum for such a conference.
2. Latvia aligns itself with the statement that [was/will be] delivered on behalf of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton. In addition let me underscore some issues of particular importance to Latvia.
3. *To find a balance* between the peaceful and safe application of nuclear energy on the one hand and defining measures how to minimize the threat of the malicious use of nuclear and other radioactive materials on the other hand has become the most challenging mission of our times.
4. Today there is a *rapidly growing* worldwide necessity to provide for the highest possible level of *security and accountability* of existing nuclear and radioactive materials and their associated facilities. Latvia strongly supports and encourages every intention and effort aiming to deal with this challenge, including the search for the most effective, inclusive and balanced measures for the world-wide governance of nuclear and radioactive materials.
5. Latvia highly estimates the valuable contribution of the series of Nuclear Security Summits to this pressing issue. The Summits have engendered a

strong political impetus and richly enhanced our awareness regarding the needfulness of global action.

6. We also support and advocate existing operational tools like the framework for nuclear-related export control, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), as well as the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).
7. At the same time in order to allow for a smooth and harmonised global cooperation and international confidence, states must work together to find a consensus on a *common framework* for a comprehensive and monitored management of nuclear and radioactive materials. In this regard, the legitimacy, near-universality and well-established expertise of the IAEA makes it *an appropriate body* to oversee such a consensus-finding process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. *Each state* has fundamental responsibilities towards our shared security. Consistent with national and multilateral norms and instruments, we all must be vigilant and accountable for protecting the nuclear and other radioactive materials and their associated facilities *within our national territories*, whether they are for storage, transport, or legitimate use.
9. The national legislation on security of nuclear and radiological materials and the inter-institutional cooperation system in Latvia, being consistent with international commitments and the IAEA standards, contributes essentially to our common effort to prevent proliferation of and unauthorised access to nuclear and radioactive materials. With the benefit of the IAEA's support, and in the spirit of cross-border cooperation, Latvia ensures that the efficiency of its national nuclear security system is being constantly upgraded, including the physical protection of nuclear and radiological materials and their related facilities, detection and action taking measures as well as expert training. In this regard, the safe and secure removal (by 2008) of all highly enriched uranium from the Salaspils Research Reactor in Latvia is an excellent

example of how efforts in cross-border cooperation yield results for stability of the global nuclear security environment.

10. In Latvia there is a strong emphasis on the *prevention* of the smuggling of nuclear, radiological and other-dual use materials across international borders. Latvia along with other EU Member States employs strict export *and transit* controls and scrutinizes also every transaction with states being under international sanction regimes and arms embargoes conditions with the aim to make sure that nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological material and their delivery systems will not fall into the wrong hands and be used for malicious purposes. In promoting the culture of sensitivity to the dual-use and nuclear security issues, the Latvian government, on a regular basis, hosts outreach seminars for industry representatives, who are involved in exporting dual-use and military equipment and materials.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. I wish this conference to be a tangible push forward in our common efforts to secure existing nuclear and radiological materials and their associated facilities and to find the best possible framework for global cooperation in achieving this goal. Thank you.