

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY: ENHANCING GLOBAL EFFORTS:
1-5 JULY 2013

NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT

Thank you [Mr President]

The risk that New Zealand would be subject to a terrorist attack is low; the risk of an incident involving nuclear materials is arguably even lower. But the humanitarian, economic and environment risks around terrorists gaining access to nuclear or radiological materials are so grave that the New Zealand government will do all within our power to minimise the likelihood of this nightmare becoming a reality.

We cannot of course do this alone. International collaboration and action is essential. While the Nuclear Security Summit has played an invaluable role in focusing global high-level attention on this issue, the International Atomic Energy Agency and its member states have also been working to strengthen nuclear security for more than a decade. New Zealand welcomes the convening of this international conference under the auspices of the IAEA and views this occasion as an affirmation of the Agency's mandate to ensure that all nuclear material in its Member States is safe, secure and safeguarded.

I would like to take this opportunity to confirm New Zealand's ongoing appreciation for the Agency's important work on nuclear security, which we have supported since its inception, including through regular donations to the Nuclear Security Fund. We consider that the Agency is particularly well-placed to lead and coordinate nuclear security cooperation. As was noted in the ministerial outcome document, nuclear security encompasses the physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive material, its transport, use and storage, and the protection of facilities and of sensitive information. The breadth and depth of the Agency's expertise across all of these interconnected elements is both unique and indispensable, and reinforces once again the centrality of the IAEA to global nuclear security efforts.

New Zealand views nuclear security as part of our broader and longstanding commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. At home, the New Zealand government takes very seriously its responsibility to safeguard nuclear and radiological material. Such material is securely held and our national radiation laboratory stays in close contact

with major users to ensure that all their material is fully accounted for. But we recognise the need for constant evolution; our people are working now on designing new radiation safety and security legislation that will serve us over the coming decades.

Abroad we contribute regularly to a range of nuclear security initiatives, first and foremost of which is the IAEA's own Nuclear Security Fund, which we have supported since its inception and to which we provided an additional \$100,000 last month. New Zealand is also an active member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and has recently funded a workshop by the World Institute for Nuclear Security on securing radioactive sources in Southeast Asia.

Since 2004 we have provided NZ\$7 million towards G8 Global Partnership projects aimed at securing nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union and around the world. I'm pleased to announce that New Zealand has provided NZ\$570,000 in the last few days to a joint project with the US in support of mobile detection capacity building activities in Africa and Latin America.

New Zealand will continue to strengthen its own nuclear security regime and to seek niche opportunities where we can make a difference in helping partners to secure nuclear and radiological materials, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.

Looking ahead, New Zealand has longer-term ambitions for the global approach to strengthening nuclear security. We strongly support development of a more coherent international nuclear security framework that respects national security concerns but is backed by evolving and transparent standards. We welcome the political momentum lent to this aim by the Nuclear Security Summit process and to this end we look forward to the outcome of the 2014 Summit to be hosted by the Netherlands. Equally important, however, will be a strengthened and sustainable role for the IAEA, which for New Zealand will be a key outcome of this Conference and of any work streams that flow from it. We look forward to working with other Member States to realise this ambition.

Thank you [Mr President].