



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations and other
International Organizations in Vienna*

- Check against delivery -

**International Ministerial Conference
International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts
Vienna, 1 – 5 July 2013**

**Statement by Portugal
Delivered by H.E. Nuno Crato
Minister of Education and Science**

Mr President,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Like other speakers before, including my colleague from Lithuania, who spoke on behalf of the European Union and with whose statement my own aligns, let me, from the outset, thank the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Amano, for convening this Conference, and Minister Martonyi of Hungary for taking up the important task of presiding over it. Let me assure you both of my delegation's full cooperation and my country's longstanding commitment to nuclear security, as well as to nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr President,

2. Rights entail obligations. This premise is aptly enshrined in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which recognizes the right of States to the peaceful use of nuclear energy but also their responsibilities towards every other Nation.

3. That responsibility begins with the compliance with the Agency's safeguards system, which must be increasingly strengthened as new challenges to peace and security arise. Portugal believes that the measures contained in the Model Additional Protocol are an integral part of this system and that the Comprehensive



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations and other
International Organizations in Vienna*

Safeguards Agreement, along with Additional Protocols, constitute the current IAEA verification standard. Portugal continues to work towards the universalization of such standard and remains ready to assist the IAEA in this endeavour.

4. Also crucial among the responsibilities nations have towards one another is preventing non-state actors from gaining access to nuclear materials and radioactive sources. Terrorism, like the consequences of nuclear incidents, is a threat that knows no borders. It is, thus, only appropriate that this global concern should be met with a global response. It also demands a multidisciplinary approach, as this Conference's agenda rightly recalls. These reasons, Mr President, both point in the same direction: that of the key role of the IAEA in the field of nuclear security, especially as universal policy making forum in this domain. In this context we welcome the discussion on the Nuclear Security Plan 2012-2014 to which we hope to make a positive contribution as well as the initiative of Director-General Amano to accord the security department with greater autonomy.

5. Seized of the importance of nuclear security, the International Community has developed programs and projects of a more pragmatic nature. Portugal takes part in several of these initiatives, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, which celebrated its 10 year anniversary last month, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Both Initiatives have fostered desirable inter-agency coordination and provided for the active engagement of national institutions with their foreign counterparts in areas such as information sharing, nuclear detection, training and awareness raising.

6. Portugal also supports the strengthening of the international legal framework on nuclear security. Portugal is a Party to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials, and has ratified its 2005 amendment, In addition, I am pleased to report that my Country is in the process to completing the



*Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations and other
International Organizations in Vienna*

ratification process of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear terrorism (ICSANT).

Mr. President,

7. Allow me to take this opportunity to point out some of my Country's commitments in the field of the IAEA technical cooperation. Portugal is negotiating its Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2013-2018, seeking to reinforce key areas where the IAEA has particular expertise. As a donor, we have sought to contribute to the Agency's work in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge with appreciation the Agency's recent missions to Lisbon and the opportunity to collaborate in joint projects. In this regard, I reiterate the readiness of the Portuguese *Nuclear Technology Campus* for cooperation with Third Countries, as we are already doing with Angola and Mozambique in the framework of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. We have expertise in areas such as nuclear physics and engineering, nuclear and radiological safety, advanced instrumentation, materials science, radiochemistry and radiopharmacy, radiation-based imaging techniques and radiological protection that can be a valuable asset for our joint cooperation efforts.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies,

8. We meet here because we want our citizens to enjoy the benefits of peaceful uses of the atom in a safe and secure world. I thus urge the IAEA not to forego its leading role in nuclear security and to convene, on a regular basis, international conferences that assess the global progress of the international community in addressing the issues we'll be discussing in the week ahead.

I thank you, Mr. President.