

Statement of Honorable
Ms. Marta Žiaková,
Chairperson of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic,
at the International Conference on Nuclear Security

Mr. President, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Slovak delegation I would like to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency for organizing this conference which gives us an opportunity to exchange experiences and practices on nuclear security .

Safety, security and safeguards are the three main preconditions for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Slovakia . Our conference is focusing on nuclear security and therefore I will concentrate on the aspect of the physical protection of nuclear facilities and of nuclear and radioactive materials. Today the terrorist attacks and the threats has become a central concern for the governments and the society. At the outset let me confirm , that our nuclear facilities were in the past, present and in the future will be subject to stringent security regulations. These regulations are periodically reviewed and updated as necessary based on up to date information received from different sources and technological development. The Atomic Act and the subsequent Regulation on details concerning physical protection specifies requirements towards licensee.

In line with the development of the legal framework significant improvements have been made to protect the facilities against terrorism and sabotage. These measures include training programs for security staff, robust protection and intruder surveillance and detection systems etc. The most recent initiative was the introduction of new administrative measures and technologies for an

enhanced access control of persons to nuclear facilities. This is considered as one of the most effective protection measures to limit the possibility of an insider support to outside attack forces. The Nuclear Regulatory Authority as the responsible authority for the physical protection of nuclear facilities is working closely with other state organisations and agencies to improve the security framework. The measures are subject to regular inspections and exercises to ascertain that the adopted measures are effective. The Nuclear Regulatory Authority performs several activities in cooperation with the IAEA and other institutions and organizations in order to improve the efficiency of physical protection of nuclear installations and materials such as:

- Workshops, Training Courses
- International expert missions,
- Exercises,
- Audits.

The latest 2013 activities include for example a National Workshop on Nuclear Security Culture which was held in February 2013 in Bratislava.

Mr. President ,

Let me shortly turn to the aspect of global nuclear security and international cooperation. After the Fukushima accident the European Council in March 2011 decided that the safety of all EU nuclear power plants should be reviewed. In May 2011 the European Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) and the Commission agreed that a two track process should be put in place to cover safety and security. A so called Ad Hoc Group on Nuclear Security was created which reviewed five areas: cyber security, IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service Missions, aircraft crash, synergies between safety and security and exercises and trainings. The Ad hoc group has drawn nine main conclusions with the aim to ensure a higher level of nuclear security in the EU. The group completed its work in April 2012.

Slovakia together with the United States of America has taken a significant step toward strengthening security of radioactive and nuclear materials in 2011. Both governments has signed “Joint Action Plan between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials and Related Technology”. The aim of the plan is to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to the threat of smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Slovakia is actively participating in the IAEA’s activities on strengthening nuclear security and recognises the central role of the Agency in facilitating international cooperation in supporting Member States to fulfil their obligations. In particular the development of the Nuclear Security Series is providing a valuable guidance to Member States.

Let me highlight some of the key issues which we consider important in relation to nuclear security of nuclear installations and materials:

- 1., The physical protection of nuclear facilities and materials should be subject to rigorous regulations in line with international standards and best practices.
- 2., The responsibilities of the licensee and technical robustness of the installation is limited in many aspects. Therefor additional measures that should be taken are in the hands of governmental institutions. For example the defence against aircraft attacks and nowadays the cyber security are those areas where governmental institutions should be involved. In this regard the responsibilities between the licensee’s security arrangement and the government institutions should be clearly defined.
- 3., Although the security of nuclear installations, nuclear and radioactive materials is a national responsibility a strengthened global security regime

could make a valuable contributions to each state's security . Without any doubt the revised CPPNM and the other thirteen universal legal instruments dealing with terrorism are those which contribute to an enhanced nuclear security globally and nationally as well. In this regard I would like to mention that Slovakia has ratified all these international instruments.

4., We are facing a challenge in keeping security arrangements vis a vis request of the public for a transparent nuclear industry. Of course transparency is mainly driven by the legitimate fears and concerns of the public connected with a potential consequences of an accident at nuclear installation. But in a number of cases we have to consider whether the requested information has some security relevance . This review is a difficult task which requires significant human and financial resources in cases when the amount of requested information is excessive.

5. International cooperation and exchange of experiences on bilateral bases or under the auspices of the IAEA is an important instrument in strengthening global nuclear security.

In conclusion I would like to state that just at a time when the nuclear energy sector, as in the past, is facing challenges due to various external events including security related issues, such a conference is highly appropriate. I express my conviction that the exchange of views and outcomes of this conference will even further advance all aspects of nuclear security. Discussions at this high level have a highly-rational justification while always sending a clear signal about our common interest in carefully managing the challenges of nuclear security.

Thank you for your attention