



REGERINGSKANSLIET

SWEDEN

Statement

by

H.E. Mr Frank Belfrage

Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs

**International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing
Global Efforts**

1-5 July 2013

Vienna

Final version

Mr Chairman, Mr Director General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me at the outset to express my Government's appreciation to the IAEA for organising this conference on a topic of global importance – how to strengthen nuclear security worldwide. The conference will provide for high-level attention to the topic, as well as a venue for practical and technical expert discussions. The Swedish delegation will actively participate and contribute with presentations in the coming days.

The global efforts to strengthen nuclear security have been intensified in the past years. Considering the possibly devastating consequences that an act of terrorism involving nuclear or other radioactive material could have, we must do our utmost to prevent it.

Over the past decade, the IAEA has significantly developed its capacity in order to support Member States to strengthen nuclear security. Bearing in mind the central role of the Agency in this field, it is appropriate that we gather here in Vienna to take stock of our work and advance it further.

Mr Chairman,

Our joint efforts to secure nuclear material and prevent nuclear terrorism form part of our overall efforts to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. Our objective is a world without nuclear weapons. Securing vulnerable nuclear material is one step towards that goal.

Sweden has participated actively in the Nuclear Security Summit process originating in President Obama's invitation to the first Summit in Washington 2010. The Summit process has had a real impact both at international and national level.

In connection with the Summit in Seoul last year, we announced the removal of separated plutonium from Sweden. Sweden worked jointly with the United States over a period of two years to safely and securely stabilize, package and transport the separated plutonium to the United States. This shipment was the first of its kind under the U.S. Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Sweden is proud to have contributed in this very

practical way to the common goal to secure all vulnerable nuclear material. As our Minister for Foreign Affairs stated in Seoul, Sweden stands ready to share experience and support others in eliminating their excess separated plutonium.

Mr Chairman,

Let me draw attention to some points that Sweden finds particularly important.

Sweden has more than 30 years of experience from working with requirements concerning physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities. It is in our view critical to continuously assess the threat situation and adapt the physical protection regime accordingly. It is equally essential to continuously provide **training** to those working in nuclear facilities and with radioactive material, in order to equip them to establish and sustain an effective nuclear security regime and to lay the ground for a sound **nuclear security culture**.

In 2011, the IAEA carried out an **International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission** in Sweden. The IPPAS mission formed part of a broader national review of our physical protection system. We will give a presentation of our experience from the IPPAS mission later in the week. Sweden encourages Member States to take advantage of this advisory service and to request IPPAS missions as a way of allowing for an independent expert review of the physical protection regime in place.

Considering that a robust nuclear security regime requires the involvement of all relevant national authorities, coordination among them is important. As a result of the IPPAS mission, Sweden instituted a **formalized national coordination group** to this effect. The objective is to ensure effective and coordinated protection against malicious acts and threats.

As a general point, in preparations to build **new nuclear power plants** the **physical protection scheme should be taken into account at an early stage** – already in the siting, design and construction phase.

Mr Chairman,

Two of the main international legal instruments in the field of nuclear security are the **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material** (as amended in 2005) and the **International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**.

Sweden ratified the 2005 Amendment to the **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material** in March last year. We encourage States which have not yet done so, to ratify the amended convention in order to allow for its entry into force.

Sweden is preparing the ratification of the **International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**.

Mr Chairman,

As I said earlier in my remarks, the IAEA has developed its capacity related to nuclear security significantly in the past decade. This is something we welcome.

In 2002, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted the first **IAEA Nuclear Security Plan**, which has since then been updated and developed. The implementation of the plan is largely dependent on voluntary contributions to the **IAEA Nuclear Security Fund**, which can pose a challenge to long-term planning and sustainability. Sweden has regularly contributed to the fund both on a national basis and through the European Union, and will continue to do so to the extent possible. We encourage Member States in a position to do so to provide funding or in-kind contributions to support the implementation of the plan.

Sweden supports the implementation of the Nuclear Security Plan also through in-kind contributions, making Swedish experts available for participation in IPPAS missions and in the Agency's work to develop guidelines in the Nuclear Security Series.

The **IAEA Nuclear Security Series** is an important tool of guidance to the Member States. We encourage the Agency to continue developing the Series bearing in mind the need for priorities and a clear structure.

Last year, Sweden welcomed the establishment of the **Nuclear Security Guidance Committee** and has taken active part in its work. We believe the Committee can play an important role in the development of the Nuclear Security Series.

Mr Chairman,

While the responsibility to protect nuclear material and facilities rests with the State, **international, regional and bilateral cooperation** is important. We can learn from and support each other. Sweden has for a number of years cooperated with partners in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to this effect. Sweden is also an active partner in the **G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction** and the **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism**. As concerns cooperation under the G-8 Global Partnership, Sweden is proud to announce that we, together with Norway, Finland and the Russian Federation, have worked to remove 71 strontium-based batteries from light-houses on the Russian shores in the Bay of Finland. We joined this project in 2010 and upon completion in August this year the highly radioactive and vulnerable batteries in these 71 light-houses will be replaced by solar panels.

Mr Chairman,

Let me conclude by once again expressing my Government's appreciation to the IAEA for its continuous efforts to provide support and guidance to the Member States as we seek to strengthen nuclear security worldwide.

I thank you.