

Scientific Matters

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BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, the threat of terrorism involving the potential use of nuclear and other radioactive material has increased. Terrorism has also evolved to include malevolent acts by terrorist groups and other malicious non-State actors. This has led to an international effort to build a nuclear security framework and regime, both for prevention and for management of the consequences. Nuclear security is now recognized as a key element of international peace and security.

Nuclear security has also become a core priority in government and industrial activities involving the use of nuclear and radioactive material. The drive towards effective security measures must continue and be strengthened. This calls for continued resolve, broadened coordination and increased trust, along with the necessary financial and other resources.

OBJECTIVES

In March 2002, the IAEA embarked on its first comprehensive programme to combat the risk of nuclear terrorism by assisting States in strengthening their nuclear security. This symposium is convened to consider advancements and achievements in global efforts to enhance the security of nuclear and other radioactive material, since 2002, and to identify areas and efforts for further improvement. For that purpose, policy makers and experts will convene to share knowledge and information in implementing the nuclear security framework and to identify the best way forward to achieve a sustainable, enhanced global nuclear security regime, with specific proposals to be considered for the IAEA 2010–2013 Nuclear Security Plan.

The purpose and objectives of the Symposium are to:

- Determine progress on efforts to improve nuclear security since 2002;
- Strengthen current international coordination mechanisms to provide for the effective use of available resources, avoiding duplication by bilateral and multilateral initiatives;
- Suggest actions on how to maximize support to those States which request assistance in the field of nuclear security;
- Examine how to optimize existing cooperation among parties working to bring about nuclear security improvements in States;
- Generate new approaches to broadening international and national support for and participation in international nuclear security efforts;
- Suggest ways to establish a systematic approach to enhancing adherence to and implementation of the existing international instruments;
- Suggest enhanced measures to combat nuclear terrorism in a sustainable manner, including international mechanisms for sharing information and cooperation.

AUDIENCE

The International Symposium on Nuclear Security is targeted at senior national and international policy makers and experts with a mission to strengthen nuclear security.