

STATEMENT

By the Republic of Armenia

At the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Arman Kirakossian, Ambassador and Permanent
Representative**

/Vienna, 1-5 July 2013/

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to thank Director General Yukio Amano for convening this important conference and express our gratitude to IAEA Secretariat and, especially, Office of Nuclear Security for excellent organization of the Conference.

Armenia fully shares global concerns on nuclear terrorism, which continues to pose serious threats to international security with potentially devastating consequences to our societies. We are meeting at a time where the nuclear arsenals and unsecured nuclear materials are still putting our non-proliferation efforts at risk. We must deal with the serious danger of nuclear terrorism. This is a common threat that requires a common response.

My Government reiterates its commitment to our shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The Fukushima Daiichi accident reminded us of the importance of linkages between nuclear safety and nuclear security. Multiple safety and security measures were undertaken on the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant, the physical protection of the Plant is continuously increasing.

Armenia has always been a strong advocate of arms control and WMD non-proliferation regimes and adheres to various instruments that contribute to the reinforcement of international peace, security and stability.

Armenia attaches great importance to universal application and effective implementation of all treaties and regimes dealing with non-proliferation of nuclear materials.

In that realm, my Government has been extensively working for the last several years to be a responsible international partner and contribute to common efforts of putting in place a viable protection shield to avert the threat of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism from manifestation.

Mr. President,

This year Armenia ratified the “Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste” and 2005 Amendment to the “Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material” and deposited its ratification instruments in May 2013.

Armenian Government has initiated internal procedure for joining the “2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation”. I hope that soon it will be submitted to the National Assembly for ratification.

Armenian Government invited IAEA IPPAS mission for the second time to visit Armenia, which is planned for 2014. In some days IAEA INSSP review mission will visit Armenia to discuss and review with Armenian authorities Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan for Armenia for further implementation of nuclear security activities in the country. Armenia permanently reports on the incidents and illicit activities involving nuclear and other radioactive materials to the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database.

As part of our continuous efforts to enhance interdiction-related capabilities, Armenia has conducted a joint WMD Land Interdiction Exercise with Georgia in 2012. The field exercise played a scenario of interdiction of illegal transportation of radiological material. This year Armenia also hosted Counter-proliferation Investigation Training.

Mr. President,

In the course of recent years the Republic of Armenia has completely overhauled its legislation and practices in the field of export control of military and dual use goods and in the non-proliferation and border security areas.

In 2009 President of Armenia signed into law the amendments to the following existing legal acts - “Law on Licensing”, “Law on Arms” and “Law on State Duties”. Corresponding amendments were made also to the Criminal Code. Through these amendments and relevant Government sub-legal acts unified and detailed control lists have been created.

In 2010 the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted a new law on “Export control of dual-use items and technologies and their transit across the territory of the Republic of

Armenia". This law intends to support the implementation of international obligations and commonly agreed measures in order to fight the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, to guarantee the implementation of international agreements and establish an effective export control mechanism, to create favorable conditions for integration into world trade system and acquisition of modern technologies by promoting foreign trade and investments. A Joint Standing Group of MOD, National Security Service and Customs Department has been created to identify, react and prevent possible problems. In 2011 the Standard Procedures for Joint Actions in Customs and Border Clearances in Cases of Transportation of Goods of Military Significance and Dual-Use Items have been endorsed.

The UN SCR 1540 remains a key international instrument in the Export Control and WMD counter-proliferation sphere. In order to further improve and enhance its implementation record, the Government recently has initiated drafting of a National Action Plan in cooperation with the OSCE.

Mr. President,

One of the cornerstones of Armenia's policy has always been fostering bilateral cooperation with the member states of international non-proliferation regimes. Recent example of such cooperation this year the U.S. Department of State's Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP) of a Laboratory for Technical and Forensic Analysis of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials as part of a joint effort to strengthen Armenian capabilities to respond to the transnational threat of nuclear smuggling. The facility will allow Armenia to collect nuclear and radiological contaminated evidence at crime scenes and perform technical analysis necessary to support the prosecution of smugglers.

Armenia remains strongly committed to undertake necessary measures with the proper use of all available legal instruments and practical tools for further strengthening our National Authorities in order to effectively address nuclear security issues. Armenian Government strongly supports the ministerial declaration adopted yesterday.

Thank you.