

Statement
by the Head of the Bulgarian Delegation
International Conference on Nuclear Security
IAEA, 1-5 July 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Bulgaria I would like to join the other speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the International conference on Nuclear Security and to assure you of the full support and co-operation of my delegation in the fulfillment of your important and responsible task.

Allow me also to commend the Director General Amano for his informative introductory statement and for convening this Conference, which provides a global forum for sharing experience for strengthening the security culture in the world and discussing the ideas on the preparation of the next Nuclear Security Plan for 2014 – 2017. This conference, together with the Nuclear Security Summits and The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, has an important role to play in facilitating synergy and cooperation in the area of nuclear security.

Republic of Bulgaria recognizes the need to protect sensitive nuclear materials and facilities and reaffirms its strong commitment to cooperate in the field of prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive substances or their associated facilities.

Following the above understanding Bulgaria ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material soon after its adoption. As it is one of the most relevant international instruments for nuclear

security, we urge all Member States that have not done so, to become party of²
the Convention and its Amendment.

Mr. President,

We consider the International Physical Protection Advisory Services (IPPAS) missions as an important tool for assessment of the nuclear security systems of the Member States. The first IPPAS mission after the events of September 2001 was carried out in Bulgaria. We appreciate the IAEA efforts in expanding the scope of the IPPAS missions with specialized modules for transport, computer security and security of sources and associated facilities. Moreover during the deliberations of the Ad hoc Group on Nuclear Security to the EU Council, my country was among those that proposed IPPAS missions to become the norm for nuclear security evaluation for EU Member States with established and planned Nuclear Power Plants. Bulgaria actively participates in IPPAS missions contributing assistance through its experts and calls on all member states to use the IAEA nuclear security services to further enhance and strengthen their national nuclear security frameworks.

We commend and support the central role of the IAEA in developing comprehensive nuclear security guidance documents and providing assistance to Member States in the implementation of this guidance. We welcome the proposal to raise the status of the Office of Nuclear Security to that of a Division in the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. This is a clear indication of the Director General's commitment to further strengthen the Agency activities in the area of Nuclear Security. Bulgaria attaches great importance to the IAEA Nuclear security related activities in the area of capacity building, training and education. The established framework of international cooperation and coordination gives the opportunity to qualified national experts to participate and to share experience, thus to enhance nuclear security regime.

Mr. President,

In May this year Bulgaria expressed to the IAEA its readiness to apply self-assessment methodologies of nuclear security culture at Kozloduy NPP. Up to now this methodology has been tested on research reactors only and responsible Bulgarian authorities support this initiative.

Bulgaria will continue to be involved in the IAEA activities supporting Member States to upgrade their capabilities in the field of security and protection of nuclear and radioactive material and playing a key role in the process of the global consolidation against nuclear terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. President.