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National Statement
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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests:

I am pleased to be here today to represent Canada and to address what Prime Minister Harper at the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit called “a serious threat” and “a significant global security challenge”: the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related materials poses a grave threat to international peace and security, and remains an ongoing security challenge for all states. The IAEA has reported more than 2000 incidents of unauthorized use, transport and possession of nuclear and other radioactive material since 1993. In addition, the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological material, including by criminal organizations, was identified as a threat of growing concern by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1540, and more recently, by IAEA Director General Amano.

Responding to the threat of nuclear terrorism requires us to act across a number of fronts. As a first priority, we must continue to work together to ensure that the physical security of nuclear facilities, and stocks of nuclear and radiological materials around the world, are strengthened. This includes physical protection, but also includes reducing use and stocks of highly-enriched uranium and separated plutonium, where technically and economically feasible. We must also work to better regulate and account for stocks of nuclear and radiological material to prevent their diversion, and to enhance the ability of countries to detect the cross-border movements of these materials so that we can disrupt their trafficking.

Le Canada prend ces mesures très au sérieux et les met en œuvre activement. Le Premier ministre Harper a déjà déclaré, et je cite : 'Le Canada est un chef de file mondial dans la lutte au terrorisme nucléaire et nous sommes fier de nos résultats à cet égard' (fin de la citation).

For example, as announced by our Prime Minister at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, Canada is working to repatriate additional stockpiles of highly-enriched uranium materials from Chalk River Laboratories to the U.S. by 2018, in addition to those announced for repatriation at the 2010 Summit and for which significant progress has already been made.

Prime Minister Harper also announced at the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit the renewal and continued funding of Canada's Global Partnership Program for an additional five years, with total funding in the amount of \$367 million. The Program supports the 26-member Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction launched by the G8 in Kananaskis, Canada in 2002. The Global Partnership Program implements concrete projects to secure and, where possible, dispose of weapons of mass destruction and related materials, for which the program has spent roughly \$930 million to date.

The Program has used over \$450 million of this funding towards nuclear and radiological security. For example, the Global Partnership Program recently applied \$8 million to remove highly-enriched uranium and to convert research reactors to run on non-weapons usable nuclear material in Mexico and Vietnam, in cooperation with the U.S. and the IAEA.

Canada is also leading efforts to advance a process toward the negotiation of a treaty to ban the production of fissile material that give nuclear weapons their explosive power such as highly-enriched uranium and plutonium. Such a treaty stands to make a concrete contribution to global nuclear security by lowering the risk that fissile material could be acquired by terrorist groups.

Toutefois, en dépit de ces initiatives ainsi que de celles mises en œuvre par d'autres États, beaucoup de progrès restent à faire. Une part importante du budget des cinq prochaines années du Programme de partenariat mondial du Canada devrait être dédiée à des projets de sécurité nucléaire et radiologique.

Beyond physical security, we must ensure that our domestic legislation and criminal sanctions are up to date and in compliance with our international treaty obligations in this area. States must take steps to build confidence about their application of nuclear security. In this regard, Canada has completed and made public a National Action Plan on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, which we support through concrete programming in third countries.

I am very pleased to note that Canada has passed implementing legislation for both the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and that the legislation received Royal Assent on June 19. Canada will be in a position to ratify the convention by the end of the year, completing the undertaking made by Prime Minister Harper at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. We strongly encourage all states to adhere to the international nuclear security regime, especially through the ratification of these key conventions.

Finally, the threat of nuclear terrorism must remain a focus of the international community. This has been the purpose of the Nuclear Security Summit, a process which Canada strongly supports. Canada will continue to play a strong role in advance of the 2014 Summit in The Hague, including hosting a Nuclear Security Summit Sherpa meeting in Ottawa, October 2-3, 2013.

However, maintaining the necessary political momentum for nuclear security will require a universal approach, in which the IAEA – and this Conference - play a central and leading role. As stated by our Prime Minister, “Canada recognizes the pivotal role the International Atomic Energy Agency plays in promoting nuclear safety and security around the world,” and “Our Government is proud to continue providing substantial support for this vital international organization, including its efforts to counter nuclear terrorism.” It is for this reason that Canada is the third-largest country donor to the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Fund, with voluntary donations totalling \$17 million since 2004.

Canada applauds the focus that the IAEA has placed on promoting its role in helping countries to improve nuclear security and combat nuclear and radiological terrorism. We also welcome efforts to enhance the profile of the Agency’s nuclear security work through the upgrading of the Office of Nuclear Security to a Division. Canada looks forward to continuing our long and active role supporting the IAEA’s nuclear security activities, both in terms of financial contributions and the provision of expertise in the years ahead.

In summary, Canada will continue to meet the challenge posed by the threat of nuclear terrorism through:

- concrete programming to secure and reduce nuclear and radiological materials and prevent their trafficking,
- with strong domestic regulations and full participation in the international nuclear security regime, and
- by providing continued support to key international initiatives and organizations, including the IAEA.

Thank you.