

1.7.2013

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

H.E. Marjatta Rasi

Resident Representative

to the

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

Mr President,

Let me start by commending the IAEA for convening the International Conference on Nuclear Security. The number of participants highlights the importance of having this forum to exchange views on nuclear security.

The security of nuclear materials and facilities is an important undertaking in its own right. At the same time, nuclear security is an integral part of the international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

Finland is a relatively big user of nuclear power and one of the countries expanding its nuclear power programme. A prerequisite for a successful nuclear power programme is public acceptance, which can only be achieved with a good safety and security record, on national and as well as on international level. Therefore, Finland is committed to enhancing nuclear security globally.

In the past, nuclear security was dealt with in secrecy and mainly in national context. Some ten years ago, the international dimension of nuclear terrorism threat was recognized. Within the framework of the IAEA, the international cooperation was further developed, leading to the first IAEA nuclear security plan that was adopted by

the Board of Governors in 2002. From the very beginning, Finland was a firm supporter of this programme.

Since then there have been a number of international initiatives on nuclear security. The Nuclear Security Summit process has contributed most to the visibility of the issue and brought it to the highest political level. Finland has taken active part in the Nuclear Security Summit and in other international processes and will continue to do so.

On national level we are putting special effort in further improvement of security at nuclear power plants, in particular cyber and information security and nuclear security culture. Some of these themes will be presented in more detail in the technical sessions of this conference, but let me highlight some key actions.

Finland has ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), and encourages all states to do the same, and bringing the amendment into force at an early date.

Finland has a well-established nuclear security regulatory framework with extensive legislation in place. The independent regulator, Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK), has the responsibility for the regulatory control of nuclear safety and nuclear security, as well as the control of nuclear material.

As part of the regulatory framework, a new Design Basis Threat (DBT) entered into force in May 2013. In order to take better into account the evolving environment, it addresses both physical and cyber threats. It is applicable to the design of new nuclear facilities and will be applied to the existing facilities as well.

Furthermore, we are in the process of revising the regulatory guides for nuclear security, with specific requirements for the security of nuclear facilities and nuclear material transports. Also, new regulatory guides are being issued, one for security of

radioactive materials, and one for information security, including cyber issues, in nuclear facilities. The relevance of cyber security in the nuclear field is also emphasised in the national Cyber Security Strategy which was adopted earlier this year.

Last year a follow-up to the International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission was conducted in Finland. The IPPAS Mission proved to be a valuable tool in reviewing the implementation and effectiveness of the national nuclear security regime. Peer review contributes to clearing fog surrounding nuclear security, while respecting confidentiality related to it. I strongly recommend wider use of the IAEA Peer Review Services.

My government continues to provide financial and in-kind support to the Agency's Nuclear Security activities. In addition to the collective EU contribution, Finland is a longstanding contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). We have participated actively in the work of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee and in developing documents for the Nuclear Security Series. Later this year Finland will host an IAEA International Workshop on Nuclear Security Culture.

Mr President,

Finally, I would like to reiterate our support to the Agency and its efforts in enhancing international cooperation in the area of nuclear security. I welcome strengthening the role of the Agency in coordinating international nuclear security efforts, as well as the planned reinforcements within the Secretariat. Finland is strongly committed to strengthening nuclear security globally and we hope to discuss these issues in a similar format also in the future.

Thank you Mr President.