

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Pál KOVÁCS**  
Minister of State for Climate and Energy Affairs, Hungary  
Governor of Hungary to the BoG of the IAEA  
International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts  
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**Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,**

Let me first of all congratulate the Agency and personally DG Amano for the excellent organization of this conference.

The issue of nuclear security has been in the forefront of the attention of the international community for the last decades. Nuclear terrorism is one of the most defiant threats to international security. Efficient measures in the sphere of physical nuclear security are the most reliable means for prevention of access by terrorists, criminals or other unauthorized entities to nuclear materials. I am confident that events like this provide an opportunity to enhance our standards, to work on possible ways to combat threats together, to share our experience, and to improve joint preparation and effort against possible attacks. Hungary welcomes the efforts taken by the IAEA and recognizes the strong coordinating role of the Agency in strengthening international co-operation in the field of nuclear security.

Hungary attaches great importance to the safe use of nuclear energy. Nuclear safety and security are mutually reinforcing each other, and thus should be regulated in a synergetic manner. Therefore Hungary is a state party to all international instruments relevant to nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation, including the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment.

As a country with an active peaceful nuclear program and plans to further expand its related capacities, we have a keen interest in ensuring the security of our nuclear facilities and material, and in mitigating the risks of nuclear terrorism. That's why we have reinforced the legal and regulatory framework for nuclear security. The legislative process started in 2008 and resulted in new national legal instruments. The Government Decree on physical protection requirements for various applications of atomic energy and the corresponding system of licensing, reporting and inspection, entered into force on 4 October 2011. The uniqueness of this new regulation is the consolidated minimum security requirements specified for each of the four security levels.

Guaranteeing the security of our nuclear facilities was the main driving force for the Hungarian Government when it requested the IAEA to conduct a two-week IPPAS mission recently. Hungary was the first among the member states to request for a second full IPPAS mission. The mission was launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 and it reviewed the nation's nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework, physical protection systems at nuclear facilities, and security arrangements applied to the transport of nuclear and radioactive

materials. The IPPAS team concluded that nuclear security in Hungary enhanced significantly in recent years. The team also identified a number of good practices at the nation's nuclear facilities, and provided some recommendations and suggestions to assist Hungary in the continuing improvement of nuclear security.

We understand the potential harm that Highly Enriched Uranium can cause if it gets in wrong hands. Hungary has taken a leading role in minimizing and eventually eliminating its stocks of Highly Enriched Uranium used at civilian facilities. Under the umbrella of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, and as part of the Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return program, Hungary successfully repatriated all of its highly enriched uranium spent fuel from the Budapest Research Reactor to Russia in 2008. The Budapest Research Reactor completed its core conversion to low enriched uranium in 2012, the remaining amount of highly enriched uranium will be repatriated in the second half of 2013. The active involvement of Hungary in the program facilitates the reduction of the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and contributed to the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime.

Recognizing the importance of material accountancy in support of nuclear security, Hungary has always underlined the need of a well-functioning State System of Accounting and Control of nuclear materials. Besides the international safeguards obligations, the Hungarian SSAC has also compiled a national central registry of all radioactive materials and waste above exemption level. In addition to this, all administrative details of the owners/licensees of the radioactive materials are registered.

In Hungary, it is recognised that having the required nuclear security measures in place, continuous efforts are needed to sustain the appropriate level of nuclear security. For this reason the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority plans to establish a Nuclear Security Support Centre by 2014 which will provide the licensees and the staff of the competent authorities with training, scientific and technical assistance.

The technical and scientific base of the Nuclear Security Support Centre is already operational at the facilities of the Centre for Energy Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The Centre for Energy Research signed Practical Arrangements with the IAEA in 2012 in order to involve the Centre's scientists in the development of nuclear forensic guidance documents and training program.

Hungary is looking forward to sign further practical agreements with the IAEA on cooperation in the area of Nuclear Security.. We have identified certain activities in which cooperation may be pursued, including the development and implementation of joint educational and training courses using a systematic approach to training and capacity building; as well as planning and participation in nuclear security-security related exercises.

Thank you Mr Chairman.