

Statement by Norway – State Secretary Torgeir Larsen

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Director General, Mr President,

We know that terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, does not respect borders. We also know that nuclear arsenals and unsecured nuclear materials are threatening to undermine our non-proliferation efforts and global security. The question is therefore what we can do with this. Let me outline **five points** of importance according to the Norwegian government:

Firstly, nuclear security is – and must remain – a **national responsibility** through establishing the necessary legislation. However, it is our **collective responsibility** to provide the necessary international framework to ensure the safe and secure handling of nuclear material, and to prevent such material from falling into the wrong hands. In the face of nuclear terrorism we must **act together**.

Secondly, nuclear security cannot be dealt with in isolation. Our efforts must be linked to the **non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament** work. Fewer nuclear weapons mean better nuclear security – and less risk of proliferation. We have to make sure that nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation are dealt with in a coordinated manner to minimise the risks.

We have taken steps at home: Over the last few years, Norway has improved the physical security at our nuclear sites. We are also in the process of requesting a new International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission from the IAEA to Norway. In addition, we have reassessed the justification for using high-activity radioactive sources in blood irradiators in hospitals. These will be gradually replaced with safer x-ray technology.

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

Norway has in the meantime provided USD 5 million to the establishment of the IAEA's fuel bank as well as NOK 28 million (equivalent to USD 4.7 million) to the IAEA's efforts to increase security at nuclear facilities in developing countries.

While we consider the IAEA to be the corner stone of international nuclear security cooperation, Norway is also participating actively in **complementary efforts** such as the Nuclear Security Summit process. We support nuclear security through international forums such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and we provide funding for the efforts to ensure full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540.

The high level of attendance at this conference confirms the heightened **global attention to nuclear security**. We also see this tendency in the Nuclear Security Summit process. Sustained international cooperation and greater commitment on the part of IAEA member states are still necessary.

Fifthly: We still need a highly competent, professional and effective IAEA. The **IAEA must remain the primary instrument** of the international community both for ensuring that nuclear materials are used in the safest and securest way possible and for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Thank you.
