

## Opening Remarks of the Conference President

HE Mr János Martonyi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary

at the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts

Vienna, 1 July 2013

Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am pleased to welcome you to the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency, in cooperation with a range of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

This is a very ambitious Conference. It aims to provide both high level political commitments to strengthen nuclear security, and concrete policy and technical recommendations. Participation in this forum is very broad, ranging from Ministers and Ambassadors to policy-makers, regulatory officials and technical and legal specialists.

The Conference comes at a crucial time for nuclear security. The heightened concern triggered by past terrorist acts remains. Events over the last decade have continued to show that there is no room for complacency and that

there is a need to maintain the momentum of strengthening nuclear security. Nuclear security as a discipline is becoming mature. I believe it is time for it to be recognized as an established element in government, regulatory frameworks and industry, not an optional ‘add-on’.

The Conference is an opportunity to consider how far nuclear security has come, where it is now and, perhaps most importantly, where it needs to go in the future.

Firstly, it is an opportunity to reflect upon what has been achieved. I believe that a great deal has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time. Throughout the world, physical protection systems have been upgraded, radioactive sources are better protected and borders are monitored more effectively. The list could go on.

Much has been learned from the experiences of the past decade or so. For example, technology can and does make a huge contribution to all aspects of nuclear security. However, technology cannot design, operate and maintain itself, or adapt to changing threats. Ultimately, just as the threats to nuclear security come from people, so nuclear security systems and measures to counter those threats must be designed by competent and reliable people who understand the threats. So, technological improvements must go hand in hand with sustainable capacity building.

Secondly, the Conference will consider how States approach nuclear security and current issues and trends. This Conference will not seek to make any evaluation of the status of nuclear security in States – that is a matter for the States themselves. But the Conference does provide a timely opportunity to obtain an overall picture of how nuclear security is progressing worldwide.

Thirdly, this Conference provides an opportunity to consider and to influence the future development of nuclear security, both generally and in specific areas. What needs to be done? What needs to be further improved? Who can best do these things and how can they best be helped to do them? How will threats change and how will nuclear security need to respond? What future challenges can be anticipated, and how can we best prepare ourselves to deal with unforeseen challenges?

These are tough questions. But this Conference has brought together more than 1300 of the people best placed to answer them, and I hope you will all make the most of the opportunity. The Conference has an immediate objective of helping to provide direction and priorities which will be reflected in the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan for 2014 to 2017. But there is a much broader opportunity to help define what nuclear security should aim to look like and to have achieved a decade from now, and beyond, and how those objectives can be achieved.

I do not wish to pre-empt Hungary's national statement, but I would like to reflect very briefly upon one example of where, from my country's perspective, real results have been achieved.

The topical example I want to highlight is the benefit that Hungary has gained from the IAEA's International Physical Protection Advisory Service, or IPPAS. We completed the self-assessment in preparation for the IPPAS mission and just last month we had the mission itself. The recommendations from the international team of experts gave us a really rigorous view of our national nuclear security regime, both its strengths and areas where improvement is needed. In addition to the benefits for Hungary, I believe that the IPPAS process has great value in helping to give confidence to our neighbours that we have effective nuclear security systems and measures in place.

Of course, this is only one example from one country's experience. I look forward to hearing many more such examples and ideas from the States represented here.

The fight against nuclear terrorism requires all States to stand together, fulfilling their responsibilities nationally and coordinating their efforts internationally. The IAEA can and should play a central role in leading international cooperation to support the efforts of States.

For this to happen, there has to be high-level political will within States. That is why this Conference starts with a ministerial session, so that States can affirm, in an inclusive forum, their commitment to the shared goal of strengthening nuclear security worldwide. The more policy-oriented and technical parts of this Conference then provide an opportunity to share information and experiences and to consider how we can do this more effectively.

I wish to conclude by expressing my appreciation to Brazil for chairing the Programme Committee and co-chairing the Informal Open-ended Working Group, which lead to this Conference. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the IAEA Secretariat for their valuable support in preparing this Conference. I believe that by the end of this week the international nuclear community will have come closer to our ultimate common goal, which is to considerably enhance global efforts for the cause of nuclear security and for a much safer world.

Thank you for your attention.