



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 14 – 18 September 2020
Agenda item 6: Nuclear Security Report 2020**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], The Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein*, Norway*, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino.]
2. *The European Union would like to thank the Director General for the Nuclear Security Report 2020 as contained in GOV/2020/31-GC(64)/6, the Deputy Director General for his presentation, and for his technical briefing on 28 August.*
3. The EU highly welcomes the outcome of the International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS 2020), held in February this year. The Ministerial Declaration, agreed by all Member States, reiterates our commitment to sustain and strengthen effective and comprehensive nuclear security of nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities and recognizes the central role of the IAEA in coordinating nuclear security activities at the international level.
4. The EU and its Member States highlight the positive role that Nuclear Security plays in sustaining access to the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. We also acknowledge that such applications contribute to Member States' sustainable development.
5. This year and the work planned in nuclear security have been deeply impacted by the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 and its related pandemic. This current crisis is unprecedented and has tested the Agency's ability to carry out its missions in this prevailing context. The EU and its Member States would like to commend the quality of the Agency's response to this challenge, which permitted maintaining the continuity of the majority of its activities in the field of nuclear security. The EU and its Member States welcome the assistance provided by Agency in organising virtual meetings and related activities in order to maintain valuable work in this regard.

Madam Chair,

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.

+ Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

6. The EU strongly supports the IAEA's central role in improving the global nuclear security framework by strengthening international cooperation and providing technical assistance to Member States. We underline the need for timely, reliable and sufficient resources for the Agency to implement its nuclear security activities, including from the Nuclear Security Fund and Regular Budget. Together with the bilateral contributions from its Member States, the European Union remains a major donor to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund with nearly € 50 million committed for the period of 2009 – 2020 in support of IAEA's nuclear security activities. This funding has helped the Agency to assist countries to upgrade and ensure the physical protection of selected facilities, to support relevant capacity-building activities as well as to improve their national regulatory infrastructure and thus enhance the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We encourage further Member States to join us in supporting this important work by contributing to the Nuclear Security Fund.
7. The EU and its Member States strongly support the work of the Agency in the development of nuclear security guidance. We welcome the review of publications of the Nuclear Security Series engaged by the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, particularly the NSS 20, 13, 14 and 15. These review and potential subsequent revision processes will be an opportunity to address in a more consistent, precise and up-to-date manner some major concerns such as
 - nuclear security fundamentals and requirements,
 - security of radioactive materials,
 - nuclear security culture,
 - computer security including, the protection of information and the protection from cyber-attacks,
 - the interface and synergies between nuclear security, the accountability of nuclear materials, and nuclear safety, and
 - insider threats.
8. We welcome the IAEA's efforts to further scope the interface between nuclear safety and security, particularly around the development of a robust safety and security culture. We take note with appreciation of the numerous activities held in 2020 to allow for further exchange between Member States on this topic and specific approaches.
9. We also highlight the importance of combating illicit trafficking, by all means, including voluntary sharing of information and a more systematic use of the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database.
10. The EU and its Member States reiterate their strong support to the ongoing joint work and partnerships between the IAEA and other international organisations and initiatives such as INTERPOL and the GICNT to promote training activities and to facilitate the sharing of experience and lessons learned in order to spread and improve the security culture at the global level.
11. The EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment in promoting the objectives of the IAEA INFCIRC 910, endorsed by 32 IAEA Member States and INTERPOL, aiming at managing and securing disused high activity radioactive sources, and the recommendations of the Code of conduct of safety and security of radioactive sources as well as its related guidance.
12. We underline and welcome the work done by the Agency to promote universal adherence to the CPPNM and its Amendment and stay fully committed in working with

other Parties and the Secretariat to prepare for a comprehensive and meaningful review meeting of the Amended CPPNM in 2021.

13. With these comments, Madam Chair, the EU takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2020 as contained in GOV/2020/31.

Thank you, Madam Chair.