

**Statement
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you for presiding over the Second International Conference on Nuclear Security. I'd also like to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Director General for their efforts in hosting this conference.

Mr. President,

Nuclear security has emerged as an important issue that needs to be addressed by the international community. The spread of information technology, the increase in trans-boundary movements, and the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material have represented a significant challenge to nuclear security. In a hyper connected world where non-state actors, transnational organized crime groups, and other unauthorized personnel reflected their intention to engage in systemic malicious acts involving nuclear and radioactive material, it has become imperative that the international community comes together to collectively chart a common course to establish a credible nuclear security architecture.

But despite our shared understanding of these threats and challenges, it is no surprise, however, that several members of the international community have had diverging perspectives and views as to how nuclear security could be enhanced.

Let me outline five main points which reflect the views of my delegation on this issue:

First:

In our collective efforts to strengthen the nuclear security architecture and while we strive to ensure that no nuclear and radioactive material are subject to theft, sabotage, and illegal diversion, we must not undermine by any means the inalienable rights of states to develop, produce, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful uses, as clearly stipulated in Article IV of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of

Nuclear Weapons. Importantly, nuclear security measures should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities. In this regard, Egypt views Nuclear Security as measures to physically protect the nuclear material and facilities consistent with the IAEA's relevant guiding documents. However, any restrictions on the different types of nuclear technologies and material under the pretext of nuclear security are unacceptable. The development and use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful uses, particularly for developing countries, has become a significant necessity for achieving the sustainable development goals.

Second:

Achieving real and concrete progress towards nuclear disarmament is key towards establishing a credible international nuclear security architecture. The continued existence of nuclear weapons, as well nuclear facilities not subject to IAEA comprehensive safeguards, significantly undermines the international nuclear security architecture. Although there are unpersuasive views that seek to dissociate nuclear disarmament from nuclear security issues, in a manner that attempts to alleviate responsibility from those that possess such weapons, the fact of the matter is the nuclear security architecture will undoubtedly become reinforced once the world becomes free of such weapons and the material used in producing them. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear security are inextricably interlinked.

Third:

We believe that achieving progress in nuclear security requires a holistic approach that provides for application of nuclear security measures comprehensively on all nuclear materials including those used for military purposes, particularly in view that most of the sensitive nuclear materials that could undermine nuclear security is produced for military purposes. Ironically, there are attempts to apply

nuclear security measures exclusively on nuclear materials used for civil applications while ignoring those used for military purposes. Real progress in nuclear security cannot be achieved without applying the relevant measures on the stockpiles of nuclear material produced and used for military purposes.

Fourth:

Nuclear security remains the sovereign national responsibility of Member States. It is their responsibility to update their respective national legislations, ensure their nuclear material and related technology are appropriately controlled and monitored, and adopt multifaceted counter measures that safeguard nuclear and radioactive material from any potential misuse. The ultimate responsibility for the implementation of nuclear security lies with member States, such implementation should remain voluntary and in conformity with the respective State's national legislation as well as with its international obligations

Fifth:

Activities related to nuclear security in the International Atomic Energy Agency should continue, in our view, to be financed from the voluntary contributions of the Nuclear Security Fund. Egypt stresses that nuclear security's technical, human and financial resources should continue to be provided through further voluntary contributions to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund to implement its nuclear security activities, and to enable the agency to provide, upon request the support needed by member states. We engaged constructively and positively in the final declaration negotiations and we are concerned that the above position shared and expressed by many member States regarding the voluntary nature of financing of Nuclear Security was not reflected in the declaration. Therefore, Egypt wishes to register its reservation on Para 11 of the declaration while not objecting to reaching consensus on the declaration.

Mr. President,

Egypt has exhibited sustained political commitment to strengthening nuclear security, at a level that reflects the growing importance of this issue worldwide. Egypt participated in the First International Conference on Nuclear Security in 2013 and was actively present in the series of Nuclear Security Summits in Washington 2010, Seoul 2012, the Hague 2014, and Washington 2016.

We have voluntarily implemented advanced measures of nuclear security in conformity with the relevant guidance documents provided by the IAEA. Egypt made a political commitment regarding the “Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources” and notified the IAEA of its intention to act in accordance with the “Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources”. Our authorities are also currently reviewing certain international instruments, including the “Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.” Egypt has also taken practical steps to ensure the highest degree of conformity with IAEA nuclear security and safety standards. It signed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) with the IAEA in 2014, with a view to improve national nuclear security and to upgrade its physical protection system for nuclear material.

Mr. President,

Egypt reaffirms that the IAEA, with its technical expertise and accumulated experience, is the most qualified organization to implement the activities of nuclear security and provide assistance to Member States in this regard upon their request.

Thank you.