

**Ministerial Summit and International Conference on Nuclear Security**

Vienna, 5 December 2016

**Statement by the Portuguese Head of Delegation**

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Nuclear security has been critical to international peace and offers today unique opportunities for Europe and the world, in the framework of a true culture that is both open and inclusive. Humankind's well-being, wealth creation, and planet Earth are entering critical times and facing threatening challenges which can only be overcome by **enlarging and strengthening knowledge-based international cooperation for safe nuclear developments and applications**. These factors, together with a better understanding of related risk governance and mitigation issues, play a critical role in shaping our common future.

Lessons learned over the past decades in the framework of international partnerships in science, technology, and higher education, involving many intergovernmental scientific ventures, have clearly shown that the future can only be built with more knowledge, a better scientific culture, and enhanced exchanges of ideas in a context of openness. Open science and innovation requires our common effort to build a better world and we all should acknowledge the role of the **International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA**, over the last sixty years. We all should strengthen its role as a critical player at world level.

This is important in today's societies because **nuclear safety and security as well as the improved understanding of related risk governance and mitigation** issues involves a series of new **opportunities for social and economic development, together with disciplines that provide new insights on emerging societal issues**. This approach helps the prediction and preparation for emerging threats and it fosters new advancements in science and engineering, as well as in related socio-technical systems, allowing for better risk governance at the international level.

It is in this context that Portugal is committed to adapt all the necessary legal issues to guarantee international nuclear security, including the amendment to the CPPNM, and participates at this conference in a way to help strengthening the role of the **International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA**, in the following dimensions:

1. Portugal proposes **to built on the existing capacities in the greater Lisbon area, to establish a “Nuclear Safety, Security and Applications Training, Research and Support Centre”** oriented towards future generations of nuclear applications professionals, with emphasis on the health sector. We aim to promote our Nuclear Campus of Loures, in the region of Lisbon, in close interaction with IAEA’s strategy for the development of Regional centres and work in close partnerships with European and African Governments and industrial players worldwide. This is **to be made operational in the course of the next two years**, in close interaction with the Instituto Superior Tecnico of the University of Lisbon and the city council of Loures, building on the investments made over the last two decades on the European fusion and fission research and training programs;
2. Portugal is committed to foster **multilateral scientific and technological cooperation in complex systems engineering and science** towards an integrative approach to nuclear safety, security and applications, together with emerging methods of data science for risk governance. This requires strengthening **international networks of government, industry, and research organizations worldwide**, involving all countries in every world region;
3. Portugal is also committed to help IAEA promoting **nuclear medicine and health practices**, as reliable and safe practices, as well as to guarantee their availability at the world level throughout health systems. This requires large international, public and private efforts to **promote nuclear science and education together with the training of biomedical engineering and of health technologies and practice** (including **specialized nursing**), to improve our health systems and the capacity to facilitate the best medical care and services to all our citizens;
4. Portugal also proposes the IAEA to promote an international initiative on **“Knowledge for risk governance and safe nuclear applications”**, to promote education and scientific culture about safe and secure nuclear applications and related risk assessment and governance issues, as well as to use nuclear science to help promote educational, medical, nursing and scientific contents worldwide. We all require facilitating the expansion of existing activities at the IAEA and other major players worldwide to raise awareness for nuclear sciences among children, but also **to deliver new educational and cultural contents in all countries.**

We all should share the responsibility of promoting **“Knowledge as our common future”**, including ways to allow population at large, from every country, to benefit from nuclear safety and security. Portugal and the Portuguese Government are engaged in this endeavour and clearly share such responsibility.

A special acknowledgement should be made to the US Secretary for Energy, **Ernst Moniz**, for the leading role he has played over the last few years in the promotion of nuclear security at a global level and a better understanding of the role international cooperation plays in a safer world.

Acknowledgements: The Government of Portugal expresses a great gratitude to the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, and the Governments of Korea and Austria for organizing the 2016 IAEA meeting at Ministerial level. A special thanks and acknowledgment is also made to all that have built the participation of Portugal in IAEA over the last years, including the high quality effort of the team of experts in the Portuguese scientific and educational infrastructure, in particular at CTN/IST, and at the University of Lisbon, as well as at the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation.