

SLOVAKIA

International Conference on Nuclear Security 2020

Statement by the Head of Delegation, Mme. Marta Žiaková

Vienna, 10 February 2020

Excellences, Director General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to speak here today at this high-level fora on behalf of my country, Slovakia. My delegation fully aligns with the EU statement as delivered by Sweden; in a national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

Gathered here on the occasion of the third ministerial conference provides yet another opportunity to take stock of the progress made, achievements accomplished as well as to address challenges still unmet. The presence of many ministers and senior officials today is a clear demonstration of the importance of nuclear security and the crucial role it plays in a sustainable, reliable, safe and secure use of the atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Excellencies,

I would like to reaffirm my country's strong commitment to the work of the IAEA and the key role it plays in strengthening global nuclear security framework and facilitating international cooperation. The Agency's assistance to Member States through, inter alia, the provision of guidance documents, peer review and

advisory services, has continuously proven to be of valuable importance in establishing and improving national nuclear security regimes.

Slovakia also strongly supports the effective implementation of the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – CPPNM and we commend the Agency on its efforts towards its universalization and call upon all countries that have not yet done so to become Parties to this essential instrument, especially as we approach the 2021 review conference for the amended CPPNM.

Excellencies,

As we all know, the responsibility for nuclear security rests with individual State. However it is in our collective interest to ensure that the current and future nuclear security architecture is properly implemented within our countries. The effectiveness of the physical protection systems represents a key element to this along with strong nuclear security culture. I reiterate the commitment of my Government to sustain and further enhance effective and comprehensive nuclear security of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities in the whole territory of Slovakia.

When carrying out our responsibilities, it is absolutely crucial to adapt and adequately reflect on the changes in the environment as new challenges and opportunities emerge. This also requires new and timely implementation of

approaches imperative to an effective regulator's response, especially through national legislation and related measures.

To this end, I am pleased to report that we are currently working on the draft new legislation that will incorporate all requirements from the Amended CPPNM as well as reflect on the emerging issues. In addition, in order to respond more effectively to the rapidly growing threats, for instance the misuse of drones for malicious purposes, theft or sabotage, my Government has established a working group to draw up countermeasures against the use of drones in critical infrastructure objects and nuclear facilities. Another example of practical steps taken, are the provisions aimed to counter cyber threats and measures to protect against plane crashes implemented at the Mochovce site.

Excellencies,

The common goal of nuclear safety and nuclear security is the protection of people and the environment, thus the coordination to address their interfaces and enhance synergies is essential. We encourage the Agency to continue to facilitate this process and underline the need for sufficient and sustainable funding for both of these programmatic activities.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Slovakia's readiness to contribute to a successful outcome of this Conference and to work actively in the future in order to continue to strengthen nuclear security worldwide. As a country with an extensive nuclear power programme we

Thank you.