

**Australia's National Statement to the  
International Conference on Nuclear Security 2024  
Ministerial Segment Plenary  
[as delivered]**

Co- Presidents,

Ministers,

Director General,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Australia acknowledges the IAEA's indispensable role and continued leadership in strengthening nuclear security capacity in Member States. I thank Director General Grossi for convening this important event for nuclear security globally, ICONS 2024.

Australia aligns itself with the Co-president's Statement which reflects a compromise agreed to by the majority of us here today. It captures the political will and commitment of Member States to further strengthen nuclear security.

It is disappointing that despite being very close to reaching consensus, ultimately we were unable to achieve it.

Since 2022, the global community has again been reminded of the importance of nuclear security and our collective roles in advancing nuclear security activities. This is evident in the Agency's work regarding nuclear security in Ukraine, in response to Russia's full-scale invasion, including at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Australia reiterates our unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and calls on Russia to end its war and re-commit to the international rules, norms and standards that we have all agreed to uphold.

We acknowledge the IAEA's central role in strengthening nuclear security and coordinating international cooperation to this end. We appreciate the availability of IAEA nuclear security support services and encourage all to contribute to, and benefit from, these services. These services rely on regular and extra-budgetary resources and Australia continues to play its part. Since 2013, Australia has contributed over 1.4 million dollars to the Nuclear Security Fund.

Australia is doing its part to support robust nuclear security arrangements globally. I want to take this opportunity to reinforce those efforts that will continue in this regard.

We commit to actively promoting the universalisation of existing nuclear security treaties and non-legally binding instruments, including the nuclear security series.

We commit to participating in ongoing nuclear security dialogues and programs, and supporting the effective management of radioactive sources, including assisting member states with disposal solutions and technologies for disused radioactive materials.

We commit to continuing to develop and build contemporary nuclear security science capabilities; and partnering with the IAEA to share our nuclear security expertise and capabilities, including in cyber security and by taking part in regional and international initiatives for capacity building.

I also wish to share with you some of the recent practical measures Australia has taken to enhance nuclear security.

Just last month, Australia was delighted to host an Agency nuclear security workshop that brought together countries from across the Indo-Pacific. The workshop provided a wealth of information on IAEA, UN, and bilateral support programs available to Indo-Pacific States, and provided a forum for sharing of participant state experiences.

Only last week we hosted a delegation from Timor-Leste to Australia to explore nuclear safeguards and nuclear security regulation.

For Australia, it is important that the voices of those within our region are heard when nuclear security is discussed. The Pacific has unique nuclear security requirements, and it is important that their requirements are not overlooked.

To be comprehensive, the nuclear security architecture requires more than ratification of treaties and setting standards and guidelines. It requires international cooperation and voluntary measures where states can assure each other of their respective national nuclear security regimes that are robust and implemented to a high standard.

We welcome the clear commitment in the Co-Presidents' statement to advance gender equality and we reaffirm Australia's complete support of the Agency's efforts to increase meaningful representation of women in the IAEA. Australia strongly supports measures that seek to integrate gender equality in all nuclear security activities, and we encourage further efforts in this regard.

Australia wishes the Conference every success in developing an ambitious, achievable, shared commitment, for strengthening nuclear security globally.

Thank you.