

# NUCLEAR SECURITY AND THE WAY FORWARD

Nuclear security has always been taken seriously. There is ample evidence that traditional deterrence does not necessarily obstruct those with malicious intent, who can also operate across borders. This understanding of the threat has highlighted the need to adopt a vigorous approach to protecting nuclear materials, associated facilities and activities in order to strengthen nuclear security worldwide. States recognize that there is a credible threat of nuclear or other radioactive material falling into the wrong hands and that this threat is global. An international legal framework for nuclear security, national nuclear security infrastructures, and the IAEA's leading role are some of the building blocks of an effective international nuclear security framework that contributes to effectively addressing this threat.

An international legal framework for nuclear security, comprising both legally binding and non-binding instruments, is essential for the success of international cooperation. In this respect, States have provided welcome support for the recent development of guidance such as *Nuclear Security Recommendations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities* (INFCIRC/225/Revision 5) (IAEA Nuclear Security Series No.13). In addition, the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) is an important step in establishing a more comprehensive basis for global nuclear security. Its principles have been reflected in the most recent IAEA recommendations on the security of nuclear material and nuclear facilities. It expands the scope of the CPPNM, by obliging States Parties to protect nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport, and in nuclear facilities.

The 2005 Amendment needs to be brought into force as other existing international instruments do not address States' responsibility for having and implementing a physical protection regime applicable to nuclear material and facilities. States have analysed, recognized, and identified a global nuclear security threat in eight successive General Conference resolutions. Ratifying the 2005 Amendment is a logical and effective response to these realities and represents a timely demonstration of international resolve and commitment.

A national nuclear security infrastructure is the key to effective and sustainable nuclear security and enables a State to address nuclear security

in a holistic manner. It requires States to ensure, inter alia, that appropriate laws and regulations are in place, that authorities know their roles and responsibilities and that nuclear security systems and measures for prevention, detection and response are designed, implemented, maintained and sustained. Without relevant laws in place, a State is vulnerable. Without adequate nuclear security infrastructure and a nuclear security culture in place, a State is not managing its risk. It cannot be a secondary consideration. Any weakness in the chain of nuclear security matters, because those intending to do harm will find and exploit that weak link.

The IAEA helps States, upon request, to establish and strengthen their nuclear security infrastructure through the development and implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs), which are comprehensive work plans for States' nuclear security activities and enable increased coordination. With an INSSP in place, States are able to address nuclear security in a comprehensive, systematic and harmonized manner, in order to avoid duplication and to cover all areas requiring improvements. Peer reviews, such as the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), are designed to enable States to further improve their nuclear security and reaffirm their commitment towards robust and sustainable nuclear security infrastructure.

An important component of such sustainability is for a State to have a sufficient number of well-educated and trained staff with the right competence, skills and security culture to advance and maintain nuclear security across many different disciplines. In practice, nuclear security culture is the assembly of characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of individuals, organizations and institutions which serves as a means to support and enhance nuclear security.

In conclusion, nuclear and other radioactive material remains on the move and is in demand in numerous peaceful applications around the world. Continued use of these materials demands constant and collective vigilance. Enhanced international cooperation and coordination are vital.

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