

## <Event Report>

### The Nuclear Security Workshop of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018

#### Introduction

The Nuclear Security Workshop co-hosted by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna and the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the IAEA and PrepCom-CTBTO was held on 26 February in Vienna, Austria.

In his opening remarks, **H.E. Ambassador Mitsuru Kitano**, Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, highlighted that nuclear security was of growing importance, especially in respect to the emerging risks and threats to nuclear facilities from terrorists and other sources. The Ambassador noted that responsibility for nuclear security rests with the State and that cooperation in this field at the international level is very important. In this regard, Japan believes the IAEA should exercise a central role in fostering nuclear security. Ambassador Kitano also recalled the high priority Japan gives to enhancing nuclear security at public events, especially given that it is due to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020. He referred in this context to Japan's ongoing cooperation with Brazil, who hosted the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro.

**H.E. Ambassador Marcel Fortuna Biato** of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the IAEA and the PrepCom-CTBTO highlighted the importance of nuclear security to the diplomatic work conducted in Vienna. Ambassador Biato further noted that the promotion of nuclear security requires a clear-eyed view of all the nuclear security challenges facing our common goal of a more secure world. This requires actors to take into account all nuclear materials, including the dangers posed by the vast majority of nuclear materials associated with nuclear weapons programs. Ambassador Biato emphasized Brazil's full commitment to ensuring nuclear security within its borders. He agreed that physical protection of nuclear material is a primary responsibility of States, and that the IAEA has an important role in providing assistance to them when requested.



#### Session 1 – Nuclear Security Outlook in 2018

Ambassador Biato moderated session 1, which focused on the Nuclear Security Outlook in 2018.

**Mr. Raja Abdul Aziz Raja Adnan**, Director of the Division of Nuclear Security, IAEA, opened the first session by outlining the three areas of the IAEA's work in this field: prevention, detection and response. He underscored that, upon request, the IAEA supports States in establishing and maintaining effective nuclear security, as well as in adhering and implementing relevant international legal instruments. The IAEA's work in nuclear security is guided by decisions of the policy-making organs, as reflected in the General Conference's resolutions, in the Programme and Budget and in the Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021. The Agency's goals and priorities for 2018 include promoting the universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM). Mr. Raja Adnan also provided information on IAEA outreach projects, such as coordinating research initiatives, setting up international and regional schools on nuclear security, as well as the holding of workshops and seminars on nuclear security.

**H.E. Ambassador Mitsuru Kitano** affirmed the importance of nuclear security and highlighted two issues: the importance of nuclear security for the sustainable use of nuclear technology; and the need for balance between the different pillars of IAEA activity, without any one area, such as nuclear security, being pursued at the expense of another. He argued that positive linkage, not conditionality, was required between nuclear security and nuclear peaceful uses. He emphasized that therefore synergies could have a beneficial effect on promoting the peaceful uses, particularly in a scenario of limited human resources and financial constraints.

**Mr. Johann Paschalis**, Deputy Director in the South African Foreign Ministry, argued in favor of a comprehensive approach in making nuclear security truly effective. He stressed that robust and open debate fostered the required levels of political commitments and a sense of common purpose, as reflected in the IAEA General Conference resolutions on nuclear security. Finally, Mr. Paschalis underscored that the IAEA has a central coordinating role in dealing the growing global concern with nuclear security.



## **Session 2 – Global Nuclear Security Architecture and Institutional Cooperation**

Mr. Nobumasa Akiyama moderated Session 2, which focused on current and future efforts towards institutionalizing cooperation between Member States and International Organizations. He also provided an overview of the global nuclear security framework. The role of the IAEA in today's global nuclear security architecture was outlined and universal institutional challenges were discussed.

**H.E. Ambassador Heidi Alberta Hulan**, Permanent Representative of Canada to the International Organizations in Vienna, outlined today's major nuclear security threats and joint coordinated

internationally action on nuclear security issues and on addressing public confidence are required. Ambassador Hulan described the background and outlook for the Nuclear Security Summits process, which aims to enhance inter-institutional coordination in this field.

**Ms. Siti Najila Binti Mohd Janib**, Scientific Attaché, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the International Organizations in Vienna, highlighted Malaysia's transition towards a more sustainable development model under the National Transformation Plan 2050 (TN2050). She pointed out that the improper storage of radioactive material can threaten both human health and the environment. Malaysia has embarked on two projects targeting this potential risk. She also described the Borehole disposal of spent sources (BOSS) and the Mobile Hot Cell (MHC) projects.

The last speaker was **Mr. Jason Tierney**, Section Head, Programme Development and International Cooperation Section, IAEA, who explored the Agency's role in establishing security guidance and in providing assistance, upon request, to Member States. According to him, Information Exchange Meetings can promote an effective use of resources, as these gatherings foster working-level discussions with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Mr. Tierney emphasized that the IAEA continues to play a central role in strengthening nuclear security globally.



### Session 3 – Nuclear Security in Major Public Events

Mr. Nobumasa Akiyama also moderated the final session, which provided an overview of national nuclear security approaches used for Major Public Events (MPE's), and discussed the IAEA's role in assisting these efforts.

**H.E. Ambassador Paulina Franceschi Navarro**, Permanent Representative of Panama, outlined the challenges and opportunities for Panama on hosting the 2019 World Youth Day (WYD19), with Pope Francis in attendance. The underlying challenges relate to the scale of the event (the largest gathering ever hosted by Panama), the proximity of the Panama Canal, and the fact that the event will be held in an open square with limited possibilities for controlling access. Ambassador Franceschi Navarro described the assistance being provided by the IAEA, which includes capacity building and the lending of radiation detection equipment, with a view to helping Panama implement adequate nuclear security measures in advance of the mega-event. Finally, she described the central aspects of the practical arrangements between Panama and the IAEA to implement these measures, including the scope of cooperation and the plan of activities.

**Mr. Keith Anderton**, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the United States, stressed the threat of nuclear terrorism, to which MPEs are especially vulnerable. In his view, at the earliest stages of planning for MPEs, priority should be given to integrating a radiological security plan into overall

security measures. This requires designating a competent authority responsible for radiological alarms. Pre-event joint training courses with radiation responders and security officers have been found to be an effective approach. He concluded by underscoring the need for a periodical review of guidelines for the safe implementation of MPEs, and encouraged the IAEA to continue hosting regional/multi-country trainings courses.

**Mr. Cesar Henrique Romão**, from the Institutional Security Cabinet of the Presidency of Brazil, provided an overview of the strategies and challenges associated with strengthening the nuclear security for the 2016 Olympics and Paralympic Games hosted in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil received support through international arrangements, including cooperation with the IAEA. Mr. Romão described the lessons learned in the process, highlighting in particular the opportunities and challenges in establishing a national strategic plan and an effective cooperation programme with the IAEA.

In conclusion, **Mr. Nigel Tottie**, Senior Nuclear Security Officer at the IAEA identified the major threats that large-scale public events are vulnerable to and provided recent examples. Mr. Tottie concurred as to the difficulties posed in protecting large public gatherings, which are aggravated by the fact that the timing and locations of the venue are well-known in advance. He mentioned that best practices in this area are contained in IAEA Nuclear Security Series publication No. 18.



## Closing

On behalf of co-organizers, Ambassador Biato of Brazil expressed his appreciation for the candid and open discussions held during the workshop, which he believed provided a useful opportunity to approach nuclear security matters from a more practical angle. He concluded by expressing the hope that the event had contributed to molding a sense of the common concerns and challenges facing the international community in the field of nuclear security.