



European Union

**EU Statement on
Agenda item 4: Nuclear Security**

**Board of Governors
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 8-12 September 2025

Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. [Alignment clause]
2. We thank the Secretariat for the annual Nuclear Security Report, highlighting the IAEA's activities in the past year.
3. Maintaining and strengthening effective and comprehensive nuclear security is a prerequisite for the responsible, safe and secure development of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Chair,

4. The Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) are the main internationally legally binding instruments in the area nuclear security. It is in everyone's interest to join them. We encourage the Secretariat to continue promoting their universalization and assisting State Parties in their adherence and implementation. We look forward to active engagement and substantive technical discussions ahead of the 2027 A/CPPNM Conference. It is important that State Parties inform the Agency about laws and regulations related to this Convention. The EU has provided nearly 10 million euros to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) activities to help adherence to ICSANT.
5. We welcome the activities undertaken by the Agency to mitigate insider threats, including through enhancing nuclear security culture and international cooperation.
6. We underscore the importance of ongoing cooperation between the Agency and INTERPOL, recognizing law enforcement's vital role in strengthening nuclear security globally.

7. We reiterate the EU's unwavering support to the Agency's work at Ukraine's nuclear facilities. We are deeply concerned that nuclear security continues to be jeopardised by Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. We encourage the Agency to continue to assess challenges faced at nuclear facilities in the practical application of nuclear security guidance during an armed conflict. We once again underline our interest in further updates on this work.

Chair,

8. We note with appreciation the Agency's ongoing work on the revision of the Nuclear Security Fundamentals and the three associated recommendations.
9. We encourage the Agency to continue providing technical assistance for major public events and detecting nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control.
10. With the growing global interest in Small Modular Reactors and other new reactors, we emphasize the importance of nuclear security by design. We support the establishment of a nuclear security working group within the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative and look forward to learning more about its activities.
11. We encourage the Agency's support for exploring new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence applications, to address benefits and challenges and to ensure their secure use. We expect the IAEA to issue a TECDOC and look forward to substantial exchanges on this topic.
12. We welcome the Agency's Impact Survey, which will provide guidance on future ICONS and other nuclear security conferences. In particular, we appreciate the recent launch of the webinar series "Nuclear Security - Looking Beyond ICONS 2024" to sustain dialogue.
13. We look forward to Conferences on Computer Security and on Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Material.

Chair,

14. We encourage the Secretariat to continue promoting international exchanges to develop, foster and maintain a robust nuclear security culture.
15. The EU supports the activities of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) in Seibersdorf and further expansion of its trainings. This should complement training capacities in Member States. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and its EUSECTRA training centre has collaborated closely with the IAEA resulting in a joint training programme. Their cooperation includes a National Long-term Training Programme on Nuclear Forensics since this April at JRC's Karlsruhe site.

Additionally, other national centres of excellence in EU Member States are also providing training activities complementary to the NSTDC, thereby enhancing nuclear security training globally.

16. We also welcome the continued focus on gender equality in nuclear security and call on the IAEA to continue training sessions and relevant meetings on this topic.
17. The IAEA's nuclear security activities require timely, sufficient, and reliable resources. The EU and its Member States are among the largest contributors to the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF). Since 2003, the EU has allocated € 67 million to the NSF. The EU's latest €7.2 million allocation covers capacity building worldwide, assistance to Ukraine, and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. We call on all Member States to support the NSF to ensure progress and continuity of the Agency's work in nuclear security.
18. To conclude, we note the ongoing discussions on the IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan 2026-2029 and encourage the Secretariat and Member States to work towards the finalization of this process.
19. With these comments, the EU takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2025, as contained in GOV/2025/41.

Thank you, Chair.