

The Hague Nuclear Security Summit – Australian National Statement

Nuclear Terrorism remains a serious threat while there remain gaps in the nuclear security architecture, both at the national and international levels. Terrorists will seek to exploit the weakest link and failure to act could result in unthinkable global consequences. This is why Australia fully supports high standards of nuclear security to prevent the theft of nuclear materials or sabotage of nuclear facilities.

Australia's commitment to nuclear security, safeguards and non-proliferation was evident before the first nuclear security summit. Australia had ratified the 2005 amendment of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2008, was already using low enriched uranium technology to produce medical isotopes, engaged strongly with the IAEA and regionally on promoting high standards of nuclear security, and was a regular contributor to the IAEA's nuclear security fund.

After the Washington summit we ratified the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and after the Seoul summit we completed our commitment to host an IAEA Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) peer-review mission and to repatriate some more of our highly-enriched uranium (HEU) to the USA.

Australia is also a leader in the safety and security of radioactive sources, having committed to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and to the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, and having conducted a comprehensive outreach program on radioactive source security in South-East Asia.

Australia is further supporting global HEU minimisation efforts by significantly expanding its production of medical radioisotopes from LEU targets using its LEU-fuelled reactor.

Australia continues to support and provide leadership in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) by chairing the Nuclear Forensics Working Group, and will continue to support the IAEA's central role in nuclear security. Australia welcomes the elevation of the IAEA's Office of Nuclear Security to a Division, congratulates the IAEA on convening a successful Ministerial meeting and international conference on nuclear security last year and supports further actions to ensure it has sufficient capacity to fulfil its central role in nuclear security.

Australia actively supports the Nuclear Industry Summit on nuclear security, and is proud to chair its working group on Materials of Concern. More needs to be done to integrate the goals and activities of the industry summit with the leaders' summit. Australia also welcomes the significant contributions that non-government organisations have made to nuclear security conceptual development and the summit agenda, and welcomes the convening of the Nuclear Knowledge Summit on nuclear security.

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

The work on addressing the gaps to build an impenetrable nuclear security architecture must continue. Australia urges for further constructive outcomes at the 2016 summit.