

**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK
H.E. MS. HELLE THORNING-SCHMIDT
AT THE NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT, THE HAGUE
24-25 MARCH 2014**

Denmark commends the Government of the Netherlands for hosting The Hague Nuclear Security Summit with the aim of enhancing our international efforts to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the continuing threat of nuclear terrorism. We appreciate the hard work of the host nation to make this Summit a success and we welcome the interactive and innovative approach that has guided the organisation of the summit.

More than 20 years after the end of the cold war, the existence of thousands of nuclear weapons remains one of the greatest threats to humanity. As a consequence of proliferation, more states now have nuclear weapons than ever before. At the same time, the use of nuclear power for civilian purposes is increasing.

Today, many countries have or seek access to nuclear materials and we see non-state actors actively pursuing access as well. Governments are faced with the increasing challenge of securing that materials needed to build a nuclear bomb, do not fall into the hands of those who are seeking weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

For this reason, the Danish government is a strong supporter of the international efforts towards strengthening our collective nuclear security. Nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and strengthening of nuclear security are key elements in our efforts to make the world a safer place. From the outset the current Danish government defined support for the international efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction as key aspects of its foreign and security policy.

Responsibility for nuclear security rests with each individual State. All states have the responsibility to establish appropriate systems and measures to prevent, detect, deter and respond to malicious acts involving nuclear material and highly enriched radioactive sources. At the same time, any failure to ensure this control could have consequences far beyond state borders. For that reason, we have a shared interest in ensuring a strong, nuclear security system worldwide. And we need to build national and international confidence in the effectiveness of our nuclear security regimes. We welcome the agreement reached in preparing for this Summit on voluntary measures states may take to demonstrate that they have established effective security of their nuclear materials and facilities.

In the nuclear field no agency plays a more pivotal and vital role than the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with its 160 member states. Denmark supports the important work being carried out by the IAEA and highly values its efforts to ensure transparency and credibility in the nuclear area.

The IAEA offers a global platform for cooperation and assistance and holds the technical expertise needed to help us all make the world a safer place. Denmark finds that the IAEA, with its technical staff and institutional capacity to develop recommendations for nuclear security and carry out missions, continues to have an absolutely crucial role to play in managing the nuclear security issue.

In order to achieve an effective nuclear security framework, we should aim at no less than global adherence to the international legal instruments in this field. The Convention on the Physical Protection, its 2005 Amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism are central to a strong nuclear security system and we urge all states to adhere to these instruments.

Denmark is very careful in ensuring that we comply with all international commitments and treaty obligations in this field. For the second time, Denmark is number one in the Nuclear Threat Initiative's (NTI) nuclear materials security index for countries without weapons-usable nuclear materials. According to this index Denmark has the most favourable nuclear materials security conditions.

Ever since 1953, Denmark has had a strong system in place to secure all nuclear and radioactive materials. Our licensing system has been the subject of continuous scrutiny and improvement in accordance with international standards. A comprehensive database contains information about both historical and existing radioactive sources and related information about licensees. We have enhanced our efforts to combating illicit trafficking in nuclear and radiological materials.

Denmark is pleased to announce at this Summit that we have joined the Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Free Joint Statement. The statement aims at promoting collective achievements in working together to eliminate HEU within many countries' borders.

Denmark continues to be part of the so-called "gift basket" on radiological security aimed at encouraging states to vigorously pursue the safety of their radiological sources.

Denmark is committed to ensure that the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund receives sufficient resources and we are pleased to announce a further Danish voluntary contribution. Denmark will allocate DKK 8 million in support of the IAEA's work in the next few years. That comes on top of the DKK 8 million that we have already allocated for the period 2012-2017. We trust that such a contribution will enable the Agency to strengthen its efforts on nuclear security to the benefit of not just the involved countries in the regions but indeed for all of us.

I highly commend President Obama for initiating the nuclear security summits. We welcome the significant progress achieved since the first summit in Washington in 2010 and we are looking forward to meeting again with President Obama as our host in 2016. Much more needs to be done to tackle one of the greatest challenges to national security. Denmark can be counted on as a staunch supporter of a continued, multilateral and mutually committing nuclear security process within the framework of these summits – and beyond.