



NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

1. CPPNM, JOINT CONVENTION AND ICSANT

On 22 June 1993 the Republic of Armenia joined the "Convention on physical protection of nuclear material" (CPPNM) (ratification instrument was deposited on 04.08.1993). On 18 March 2013 the National Assembly of Armenia ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (ratification instrument was deposited on 22 May 2013 and on 18 June 2013 the IAEA issued an acknowledgement). Though the Convention is not in force yet, relevant changes to the national legal acts will be introduced shortly and the nuclear threat will be evaluated. A Government Decree was issued to that effect on 13 September 2013.

On 22 May 2013 the Republic of Armenia deposited with the IAEA the instrument of accession to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. The Joint Convention entered into force for Armenia on 20 August 2013.

On 15 September 2005 the Republic of Armenia signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) (entered into force on 22 September 2010).

2. STRENGTHENED NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR NUCLEAR AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The IAEA Code of conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources is applied in the legal and regulatory framework of the Republic of Armenia as appropriate.

On 30 September 2013 the National Assembly of RA adopted the Law on Amendment and Additions to the Law on Safe Utilization of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes.

The Law sets the rules on state accounting for and control of nuclear materials, in particular: establishment of technical procedures for accounting for and control of nuclear materials, the requirements to accounting of nuclear materials at the nuclear facilities, other nuclear energy utilization facilities, and also the exemption and termination of safeguards, conduct of inspections as well as submission of accounting reports and other information related to the IAEA safeguards implementation.

A Draft Government Decree on Approval of Rules for Physical Protection of Radioactive Materials is in the process of elaboration.

The Republic of Armenia is committed to the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and has fulfilled its national reporting obligations with a most recent update in February 2014. An Interagency working group with the assistance of experts from the UN SC 1540 Committee, the OSCE and the EU CBRN Centers of Excellence is drafting a National Action Plan for the implementation of the resolution.

In the framework of the US DOE/National Nuclear Security Administration International Safeguards and Engagement Program (INSEP) activities have taken place to strengthen the national capabilities for implementation of obligations undertaken by the Republic of Armenia under the Agreement between the Republic Armenia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in connection with Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear



Weapons and Protocol Additional to the Agreement between the Republic Armenia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for "The Application of Safeguards in connection with Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". In the framework of the INSEP project there were organized training courses on Application of Non-Destructive Assay Equipment for Identification of Nuclear Materials.

In the framework of the INSEP activities have taken place aimed at strengthening of the national legislation and regulations and at improving national safeguards capabilities to ensure that the RA obligations under the above mentioned agreements are properly implemented.

3. IAEA NUCLEAR SECURITY RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan for 2013-2015 for the Republic of Armenia had been updated and approved.

The Republic of Armenia invited an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission. In line with the agreed timelines, the mission will pay a visit to Armenia in the second half of 2014.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO MINIMIZATION OF HEU

The nuclear reactor at the Armenian NPP uses only LEU fuel. HEU is not being utilized for other purposes as well.

5. ENHANCEMENT OF EFFORTS IN COMBATING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NUCLEAR AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

The RA Government Decree 553-N from 3 May 2007 on Approval of Procedure on Detection and Isolation of Radioactive Materials sets the rules and procedures for detection of radioactive materials, establishes the responsibilities and interaction of state authorities concerned and the procedure for notification, transportation and isolation of detected radioactive materials.

As part of our continuous efforts to enhance interdiction-related capabilities, we have conducted a joint WMD Land Interdiction Exercise with Georgia from June 10 to 13, 2012. The field exercise played a scenario of interdiction of illegal transportation of real radiological material originating in Georgian port Batumi across the border with Armenia to the railway station Ayrum. We also hosted Counter-proliferation Investigation Training in February 2013.

On 18 January 2013 the U.S. Department of State's Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP) partnered with the ANPP established a Laboratory for Technical and Forensic Analysis of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials as part of a joint effort to strengthen Armenian capabilities to respond to the transnational threat of nuclear smuggling. The laboratory will allow Armenia to collect nuclear and radiologically contaminated evidence at crime scenes and perform technical analysis necessary to support the prosecution of smugglers. Improving nuclear forensics best practices and cooperation enables countries to counter nuclear smuggling by furthering their ability to determine material origin and prosecuting smugglers.

6. NUCLEAR SECURITY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Armenia is actively involved in the activities of Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and contributes to elaboration of a set of recommendations for Nuclear Detection Architecture.

The EU CBRN Centers of Excellence Initiative is a promising endeavor. The Armenian side is pro-actively engaged through the implementation of several projects.