



NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

AZERBAIJAN

MARCH 2014

1. SUPPORT FOR CPPNM AND ICSANT

Azerbaijan deposited its instrument of ratification to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on 28 January 2009. Azerbaijan is also a state-party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) since 19 Jan 2004. Azerbaijan is considering ratification of the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM. At present, national authorities are examining the Amendment in light of its conformity with domestic legislation and necessary requirements to be fulfilled once the Amendment is ratified.

2. CONTRIBUTION TO THE IAEA'S AND UN'S NUCLEAR SECURITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Azerbaijan recognizes the key role of the IAEA in strengthening nuclear security measures and commends its efforts. Azerbaijan continues its practical cooperation with the IAEA on multiple aspects of nuclear security.

Azerbaijan's endorsement of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources is at the final stage of interagency consideration. Azerbaijan is confident that the application of these documents will help national authorities to further strengthen radiation safety and security regime.

Azerbaijan participates in international information sharing on illicit trafficking issues through contribution to the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, where Ministry of National Security is the coordinating agency.

Azerbaijan welcomes the efforts of the United Nations for strengthening nuclear security. Recently, Azerbaijan submitted an updated report to the United Nations on further measures taken by Azerbaijan on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1540 adopted in 2004 to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery. The report includes further national measures on improving legislation, national practices and their implementation and strengthening international cooperation.

Under the chairmanship of Azerbaijan and with attendance of UN Secretary General a high-level thematic meeting of the Security Council on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of counterterrorism obligations" was held on 4 May 2012. The event provided valuable forum for exchange of views on counter-terrorism, as well as nuclear terrorism issues.

3. STRENGTHENED NATIONAL NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL MATERIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Azerbaijan perceives the importance of taking effective measures for ensuring nuclear and radioactive security. In particular, Azerbaijan puts forth great efforts for the prevention of use of its territory as a transit route for illicit nuclear trafficking purposes. To this end in close cooperation with international partners, Azerbaijan has developed a comprehensive national export control system with a solid legislation basis in line with international standards. One of the key aims of the export control legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan is ensuring implementation of obligations emanating from international non-proliferation agreements to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party. Currently, national authorities are working on further improving this legislation.



By supporting bilateral and international cooperation mechanisms and using national resources relevant state authorities enhanced their capacities for strengthening of nuclear security and physical protection, also improved interagency cooperation on control over related materials. Capacities of the customs and border security agencies are improved, border posts are provided with modern equipment, communications, surveillance, screening systems, as well as radiation control devices.

Recently adopted Azerbaijan's first "Maritime Security Strategy" defines proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and related materials as one of the key threats against the maritime security. In order to effectively address these threats, the Strategy delineates roles and responsibilities of the relevant national authorities and identifies rules of conducting coordination and interaction, exchange of information, risk assessment and cooperation with littoral countries in the Caspian Sea.

The State Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Activities Regulation (SANRAR) under the Ministry of Emergency Situations is the key governmental body responsible for improving control over circulation of nuclear and radioactive materials and ionizing radiation sources, making inventories, regulating, licensing and monitoring of activities related to the use of ionizing radiation sources and also for ensuring radiation protection and inspection of the relevant sites. This agency is closely cooperating with international actors to strengthen its expertise and capacities.

4. SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

The Republic of Azerbaijan became a partner country to the Global Initiative to Counter Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) by endorsing the principal document of the initiative, Statement of Principles, on March 19, 2012. Since becoming a partner country the representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been actively participating in several events organized within the framework of the GICNT including in Implementation and Assessment Group and 8th Plenary Meetings held in Mexico City on May 23-24, 2013.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In April 2011, Azerbaijan hosted a NATO/EAPC Workshop on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). Representatives of the EAPC countries participated and held discussions on topics such as best practices and new methods for effective customs control and screening procedures, lessons learned regarding the implementation of the UNSCR 1540 by EAPC countries and possibilities for enhanced practical cooperation among national customs and border agencies.

In November 2013 Azerbaijan hosted a "GUAM Roundtable on Building Security Culture" organized by Science and Technology Center in Ukraine and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The key purposes of the event were examining current CBRN security risks and challenges in particular within the GUAM region, as well as enhancing CBRN security culture development within the context of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Azerbaijan organised a number of seminars at the Baku Regional Office for Capacity Building of the World Customs Organisation. Azerbaijani officials participated in and contributed to Workshops and other events on UNSCR 1540 and export control courses held with the support of EU, NATO, OSCE and national institutions in numerous countries.