



NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

GEORGIA

MARCH 2014

GLOBAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

1. Georgia supports the existing global nuclear security architecture by implementing its requirements at a national level and demonstrating its commitment to international legal instruments. In particular, Georgia has been party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) since 2007 with the intention of becoming a full party to this international legal document. In this regard, the Parliament of Georgia ratified the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM in March 2012.
2. Georgia has been a party to the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) since 2010.
3. Georgia fully implements UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the prevention of non-state actors from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. Considering that this resolution serves as a vital component of the international community's mechanism to combat WMD proliferation, Georgia welcomes the extension of its mandate.
4. Georgia is a signatory to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. In parallel, for the implementation of legal obligations on data sharing with the IAEA, Georgia collects and analyzes information from its own remote radiation monitoring points.
5. Georgia actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. During the GICNT mid-year meeting in 2012, Georgia became a member of the working group on Developing a Nuclear Detection Architecture.

COOPERATION WITH THE IAEA

1. Georgia has had intensive and successful cooperation with the IAEA since becoming a Member State in 1996. Georgia receives assistance in various fields related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and contributes to several technical meetings by providing expertise for the drafting of the IAEA security series and other related documents.
2. The IAEA has carried out several assistance missions in Georgia: the IPPAS (International Physical Protection Advisory Service); the RaSSIA (Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources Appraisal); the International SSAC (State System of Accounting and Control) Advisory Service; and the EPREV (Emergency Preparedness Review) Service, which was carried out in 2011.
3. Georgia is continuing its cooperation with the IAEA by implementing a national Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP), which works as a roadmap to achieve the best level of state nuclear security. In February 2014 an INSSP review mission identified general trends for next 5 years, and anticipated that the plan would be adopted and signed during 2014. Negotiations are under way to establish a coordination body to identify gaps and communicate with stakeholders, including international players and donor states, on further strengthening Georgia's nuclear security regime.



RADIOACTIVE SOURCES AND NUCLEAR MATERIAL

1. In a formal letter to the IAEA Director General, Georgia expressed its full support for the principles of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary document Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. These principles are reflected in the documents related to nuclear security that Georgia will adopt as it develops a national legal basis.
2. Georgia established a National Register (RIS – Radiation Information System) of radioactive sources and legal entities/licensees in cooperation with the U.S. NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission). Currently, nearly all sources and practices are regulated through accounting, monitoring and enforcement procedures.
3. Georgia, as a signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, is fully implementing requirements for the application of safeguards and additional protocol. All nuclear material is accounted for. Confidential channels of communication with the IAEA are used according to the protocol. Georgia hosts safeguard inspections on a regular basis.
4. All fresh fuel originating from the nuclear research reactor (Applied Research Centre of the Institute of Physics) was removed and exported from Georgia in the mid-1990s. However, facilities located in the territory of occupied Abkhazia have been a cause of great concern, as Georgian authorities have not been able to monitor the presence of nuclear material there. In spite of IAEA safeguard inspections carried out in several sites located in Abkhazia, it is still unclear whether or not radioactive and nuclear material is stored anywhere in the territory. Such a concern was caused by the fact that during the last several years some smuggler groups tried to transit radioactive material from occupied Abkhazia to Turkey.
5. Georgia, in cooperation with international partners, especially the IAEA and US DoE, carried out search-and-secure operations throughout the country. The operations started with aerial surveillance to search for orphan sources in the western part of Georgia. The last search-and-secure operation was carried out in May 2012 at former scientific research facilities located in western Georgia. Since the beginning of the campaign about 15 years ago, approximately 800 orphan sources have been found and secured.
6. After disintegration of the Soviet Union, control was lost over infrastructure with radioactive sources and nuclear material. The problem was complicated by the withdrawal of the former Soviet Army. This was followed by several accidents involving high-activity radiation sources. Several of these caused severe damage to human health, such as the 1997 Lilo incident, which resulted from military calibration sources. Others were fatal, such as the 2001 Lia incident, which resulted from RTG sources. Georgia carried out operations to recover and secure source material after all such cases. Recovered sources are currently stored at the CSF (Central Storage Facility) of the Institute of Physics.
7. The next challenge is to upgrade the physical protection infrastructure of Georgia's historical radioactive waste disposal site. Numerous radioactive sources were placed in the site during Soviet times. The operations are being jointly supported by the governments of the United Kingdom and Georgia. The International Atomic Energy Agency is supervising the process through its Nuclear Security Office. The first stage of enhancements to physical protection and infrastructure is scheduled to be finished in the middle of 2014.

NUCLEAR SECURITY AND SAFETY

1. Georgia has made significant efforts to improve its nuclear safety and security at the institutional as well as the infrastructural level. The Law on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (new version), which is in line with international legal documents and the recommendations of partner states and was ratified in March 2012, is currently undergoing further development. The elaboration of the next version of the comprehensive Law on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, jointly establishing regulations for radioactive waste and radioactive material transportation, is currently under discussion by Georgian stakeholders. Regulations on inspection are in place and other regulations related to nuclear safety and security will be finalized, adopted and fully enforced in the near future. Georgian basic safety norms and requirements for sources of ionizing radiation are expected to be ratified by fall 2014. The Joint Response Plan for illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material is in the final stage of development.
2. The Law on Export Control of Military and Dual Purpose Commodities was signed by the President of Georgia in December 2013 and will be enacted on October 1, 2014. The law provides the legal basis for a renewed regime for Georgia's strategic trade. Georgian experts together with US and European colleagues

are preparing new regulations in a legal framework that would be in line with the relevant EU regulations. Such an approach will ease the harmonization process under the Eastern Partnership. The deadline for the implementation of such regulations is June 30, 2014.

3. Georgia elaborated a national strategy to reduce chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats in a document that was approved by the Government and signed in February 2014 by the Prime Minister. The action plan for the implementation of the CBRN strategy is currently under preparation and will be adopted shortly. The strategy document provides a basis for a whole package of legislation in this sphere, including legislation on nuclear security.
4. The Georgian State Border Management Strategy and a related Action Plan were signed by the President of Georgia in December 2009. The strategy document was renewed, approved by the Government of Georgia and signed by the Prime Minister in March 2014. A new action plan is to be endorsed in several months.
5. Georgia is actively implementing tasks and projects detailed in the Joint Document of U.S. and Georgian Delegations on Georgia's Priority Needs to Improve Its Capabilities to Combat Nuclear Smuggling, which was signed on February 2, 2007 and amended in 2009. Various projects are included in the framework of the agreement, which was funded by the U.S. DoE, the U.S. DoD, the U.S. DoS, the EU, Britain and Sweden. These include strengthening Georgia's nuclear regulatory authority (the Georgian Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulatory Authority has been provided with equipment, vehicles, communication and office commodities); increasing patrols of green borders; supporting Georgian border police aviation; equipping mobile radiation detection patrols; sponsoring international cooperation in nuclear forensics; developing a joint maritime coordination center; and supporting maritime patrols (coast guard).
6. Under the implementing agreement between the U.S. DoE and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia on cooperation to prevent illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material (March, 2006), Georgia is operating a state-of-the-art SLD (Second Line Defense) system (state border nuclear and radiation security system). This makes nuclear smuggling nearly impossible. The system was developed with assistance from and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy. Currently all border check points and cargo entries are equipped with radiation portal monitors and hand-held radiation monitoring equipment. Border police personnel are receiving training on a regular basis. All border check points are monitored remotely through a CAS (central alarm station) system.
7. The implementing agreement between the U.S. DoE and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources concerning cooperation to enhance the security of Georgia's radioactive sources was signed in September 2011. Under this agreement, Georgia cooperates with the U.S. Department of Energy through the GTRI (Global Threat Reduction Initiative) to enhance the security level and physical protection infrastructure for high-activity radiation sources. Through the implementing agreement, nearly all disused high activity radiation sources have been consolidated and transported to the CSF (Central Storage Facility). (According to the U.S. DoE's definition, the sources concerned are those with activity of more than 10 Ci for Cs137, Co60, Sr90, Ra226, Am241 and Ir192.) Other facilities too are using modern physical protection systems and trained staff. All equipment installed is covered by a long-term (three year) U.S. DoE warranty that includes maintenance. Until 2016, all facilities will be equipped with new physical protection systems that work in parallel with existing ones. The DoE GTRI provides for regular physical protection training (RAD SIRT) for staff directly serving facilities with high activity radiation sources.
8. The U.S. Department of State's NSOI (Nuclear Smuggling Outreach Initiative) plays a significant role in capacity building for the relevant Georgian agencies.
9. The U.S. Department of Defense DTRA (Defense Threat Reduction Agency) cooperates with partners in the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Finance through training and the provision and maintenance of equipment to ensure the effective detection of nuclear and radioactive material, whether or not it is under or regulatory control.
10. Georgia collaborates with the U.S. Department of State EXBS (Export Control and Border Security) program and receives assistance in human resources development and capacity building in this sphere. The EXBS program has initiated and funded a Joint Maritime Operations Center in Supsa, western Georgia (Black Sea coast). The Center will host various agencies – MFA, Customs, Patrol Police, Anti-terrorist Center of MOIA, MOD – and will be headed by the Border Police. The purpose of the Center is to exchange intelligence information between the agencies in order adequately to address maritime threats and challenges. The



Center is the first joint maritime center located on the Black Sea. In the future, the plan is to expand the Fusion Center to other Black Sea countries.

Georgia is an active user of the IAEA Nuclear Security Information Portal, an important new resource developed by the IAEA to support nuclear security worldwide. NUSEC is an effective tool for member states to keep themselves updated and involved. Using NUSEC, the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection will coordinate the involvement of different stakeholders in IAEA-supported activities.

COMBATING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

1. Georgia actively cooperates with the IAEA ITDB (Illicit Trafficking Data Base) office by exchanging relevant information. Cooperation with this international mechanism for global information flow helps Georgian authorities to analyze more effectively the trends in nuclear smuggling worldwide. This by itself has great importance for the relevant state agencies as they plan and execute counter-smuggling activities. Georgia has provided a permanent qualified expert for the IAEA illicit trafficking analytical team since 2012. The Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, acting as a focal point for the IAEA ITDB, cooperates with state law enforcement agencies in this regard.
2. Georgia has since 2005 actively participated in ITWG (International Technical Working Group) activities aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material. International partners, such as the EC and the U.S. Department of State, provide significant support to Georgian experts participating in annual ITWG meetings.
3. Georgia has reached a political agreement with the European Union and in July 2013 established a Regional Secretariat in Tbilisi within the framework of the Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence (COE) Initiative for South East Europe, South Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine. The secretariat was established through joint efforts made by the Georgian Government, the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Police Academy of the MoIA of Georgia is hosting the Secretariat.

NUCLEAR FORENSICS

1. Georgia's agreement with EURATOM on the joint analysis of nuclear material enables the use of international expertise from the EU Joint Research Centre to examine seized nuclear material at the Institute of Trans-uranium Elements. In addition, the agreement provides access to libraries on nuclear material.
2. Georgia actively participates in IAEA technical meetings and consultations on nuclear forensics regulations and guidelines. The most recent activities focused on a review of the IAEA Nuclear Forensics Support document.
3. Georgian specialists have participated in INFL (International Nuclear Forensics Laboratories) activities since 2005, and continued such activities after the Seoul Nuclear Summit.
4. In cooperation with the EC, the Nuclear Forensics Laboratory in the Criminalistics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is in the final stage of development. It will facilitate an improvement in the precision of the characterization of nuclear and radioactive material recovered from illicit trafficking activities. This is the next step towards achieving the highest standard in nuclear forensics and the starting point for the launch of effective communications with nuclear material libraries worldwide.

NUCLEAR SECURITY CULTURE

1. Georgia has taken a range of measures to strengthen its nuclear security culture and nuclear information security practices. The Nuclear Security Office of the IAEA is a major international player through its program for individual states, which is based on its INSSP (Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan) and uses a "train and equip" formula.
2. Georgia actively participates in bilateral and multilateral programs and projects that support HR development. Georgia has conducted several national training sessions and workshops on nuclear security, physical protection, DBT (Design-Based Threat), defense in depth etc.



3. The U.S. DoE (Department of Energy) National Nuclear Security Administration supports training on an annual basis for the physical protection of personnel serving in facilities with high-activity radiation sources. Such training and seminars take place in Tbilisi and Batumi.
4. The Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs operates training centers (a police academy, a border police training center, an emergency management training center) for human resources development in CBRN, border security, counter-smuggling, emergency response, management and other spheres related to state nuclear security. Those centers primarily serve MoIA personnel.
5. The Nuclear Non-proliferation Center was established at the Institute of Physics in cooperation with the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority and the U.S. DoE. This modern facility for staff training is associated with other facilities at the Institute dealing with such topics as sub-critical assembly and hot cells.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1. Georgia actively cooperates with international organizations and partner states to keep its nuclear security regime updated and sustainable. Key international organizations such as the IAEA, WCO, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, EURATOM and UNICRI provide effective sources of expertise, recommendations and technical assistance for Georgia's nuclear security capacity building.
2. Georgia has effective and reciprocal communication with states involved in the Nuclear Security Summit. Main partner states such as the USA, the UK and Sweden have contributed through their international cooperation mechanisms to help Georgia meet global nuclear security regime standards and requirements.
3. The first analytical work to investigate Georgia's nuclear history was done with the support of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority in cooperation with Georgian partners such as the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, the NGO Civil Council on Defense and Security and the Institute of Physics. It was based on an analysis of relevant materials from the archives of the Georgian Communist Party's Central Committee; NATO archives (declassified materials and books by the NATO Military Committee from the period 1958-1979); and oral testimony from Georgian scientists published in "Georgia's Nuclear Odyssey: The Path from Soviet Atomic Legacy to Global Nonproliferation Regime", which was issued in 2013.
4. Georgian stakeholders are continuing their active cooperation with the international community. Joint work with our partners has significantly increased our technical and institutional capability to prevent and detect violations at an early stage. Examples include the following: a) A temporary storage facility for radioactive waste started operating in 2007; b) Modern radiation detection equipment and relevant training is provided to different Governmental bodies – the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, the Border (Patrol) Police Department of the MoIA, the Revenue Service (customs) of the Ministry of Finance, the Emergency Management Department of the MoIA, the Institute of Physics etc.; c) The EU CBRN regional secretariat operates in Tbilisi within the framework of the CoE; d) The security and physical protection of high-activity radiation sources have been enhanced by the implementing agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia; e) Georgia's ability to combat illicit nuclear trafficking has been enhanced by the Joint Document of the Delegations of U.S. and Georgia, as have other capabilities..
5. Under the initiative of the U.S. Department of State, the annual donors' conferences on nuclear security were set up in 2010 and have become regular. The conferences are supported by the U.S. and UK governments. All Georgian Governmental bodies involved in nuclear security issues have been invited to participate in the planning of the next year's activities and are discussing them in relation to possible support from donor states. The next Nuclear Security Donors Conference is planned for September 9, 2014.