

**Statement of Minister Radosław Sikorski  
on behalf of the Republic of Poland  
Nuclear Security Summit  
The Hague, 24-25 March 2014  
(wersja do publikacji)**

- Please allow me to join the previous speakers in thanking the Netherlands for hosting this important meeting and carrying out all the preparatory work.
- In 2010 in Washington DC, our countries committed themselves to bolstering nuclear security within four years. The threat of malicious acts involving nuclear or radioactive materials is indeed an ominous and serious perspective.
- It is important to make use of already existing instruments aimed at strengthening nuclear security. Let me just mention the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which still is waiting to enter into force. Universal adherence to this and other instruments is of the utmost importance for establishing effective nuclear security.
- Actions speak louder than words, so Poland has taken concrete steps to minimize the threat of nuclear terrorism and to strengthen the chain of nuclear security which is only as strong as its weakest link. Thanks to this, Poland ranked 6th in the Nuclear Threat Initiative index.
- Poland has ratified all relevant international nuclear security conventions and is a member of international initiatives and mechanisms aimed at strengthening nuclear security and preventing the illicit trafficking of nuclear materials, such as: the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, as well as the Proliferation Security Initiative.
- Poland has pledged to implement the highest nuclear security standards in the development of its peaceful nuclear power program. We know how important it is to tighten international cooperation in this regard. But at the same time, we share the view that nuclear security remains a national responsibility. We therefore decided to support the gift basket related to strengthening nuclear security implementation. Each State shall establish the appropriate legal framework, governance structure, and take all necessary steps to advance nuclear security.
- Following our commitments, in 2013 Poland hosted two expert missions co-organized closely with the IAEA: the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission and the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR). The conclusion was that “Poland has made significant progress in the necessary infrastructure for the development of its National Nuclear Power Programme.” Both teams have also offered several recommendations and suggestions on how to deal with the identified gaps. In 2013 efforts were launched to fully implement IAEA recommendations on the use and maintenance of Design Basis Threat. Additionally, inviting the International Physical Protection Advisory Service is considered for the year 2015. Together with Croatia we carried out a peer review on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.
- The UEFA European Football Championships co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine in 2012 imposed entirely new organizational challenges, including in the field of security. Poland implemented active measures to protect the tournament against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats. In the course of preparations for EURO 2012, a

CBRN Task Force supported a number of training activities in the field of nuclear safety and radiological protection or in direct cooperation with the United States. Both our US partners and the IAEA provided support in the form of radiation detection equipment.

- This experience is of the utmost importance, given that one of the priorities of the Polish Government is to provide Poland with its own, affordable and stable energy, which will serve as a basis for development, and hence – increase competitiveness of the Polish economy. Thus, on 28 January 2014, the Polish Council of Ministers adopted a resolution on Poland’s Nuclear Power Programme. In line with the Programme, around 12% of our electricity should be powered by nuclear energy by 2030.
- At the Summit in Seoul Poland committed itself to continuing the program of highly-enriched uranium spent nuclear fuel removal with the aim of eliminating it from Polish territory by 2016 at the latest. This process continues under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. In total, 1584 HEU fuel assemblies were transferred so far, containing 416.8 kg of uranium (including 151.9 kg of uranium-235) and 11.4 kg of plutonium. The last shipment is scheduled for 2016 and thus all HEU fuel will be eliminated from Polish territory.
- Simultaneously, conversion process of the “MARIA” reactor core to low-enriched uranium fuel continues and will be completed later this year.
- The role of the IAEA cannot be overestimated. The quality of the guidance and experts provided by the Agency should be followed by all States seeking to improve global nuclear security. Let me mention just the Nuclear Security Series and the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.
- The Polish radiometric control system, which has been put in place at the country’s borders, plays an important role in strengthening nuclear security, given Poland’s geographical location at the intersection of key transit routes. Moreover, some parts of Poland’s eastern border represent the external border of the European Union.
- We hope that thanks to efforts taken so far, the level of international nuclear security will increase significantly ahead of the next Summit to be held in the United States in 2016.
- Poland remains determined to fulfilling its obligations under international law, as well as its voluntary commitments in order to help prevent nuclear terrorism and the illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials.