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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
Nuclear Security

Among potential threats facing the world today is that of nuclear terrorism. The impact of nuclear terrorism would be catastrophic for any country and could also have cross border effects. While an array of tools exists for the international community to address this potential problem, a lot still needs to be done.

Nuclear Security is a national responsibility but the IAEA plays a central role in helping Member States to fulfil this responsibility.

The IAEA’s activities in the nuclear security field have grown significantly over the past years. With 168 Member States and considerable technical expertise, the IAEA has played a leading role as the global platform for strengthening nuclear security. Countries increasingly seek our help in minimizing the risk of nuclear and other radioactive material falling into the hands of terrorists.

The Agency provides advisory services to States to establish the necessary infrastructure to protect nuclear and other radioactive materials from theft and diversion, to protect nuclear installations and transport against sabotage and other malicious acts, and to combat illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. In this regard, the Agency is also active in helping state’s efforts to strengthen computer security at nuclear facilities.

Other support measures by the Agency include training police and border guards, supplying instruments for detecting nuclear material, and helping States to improve their nuclear security frameworks.

The Agency’s Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) is a major focal point for international preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological safety or security related incidents. It would become operational within minutes after a State reported a nuclear security-related incident to us. We could send nuclear security experts and radiation measurement teams to the affected country, help organise medical assistance and organise nuclear forensics investigations.

The Agency also maintains a unique global Incident and Trafficking Database, through which Member States report incidents of illicit trafficking and other
Unauthorized activities involving nuclear and other radioactive material. Nearly 3,000 such incidents have been reported since the database was established in 1995.

The Agency helps States to develop tailor-made Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSP). INSSPs provide a platform for nuclear security work to be implemented over a period of time, thus ensuring sustainability. They also enable some States to prepare and implement the necessary nuclear security improvements internally and without external assistance. There are currently 72 INSSPs being implemented and another 31 at varying stages of development and finalization.

The IAEA celebrated an important milestone on 8 May 2016 - the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

The Amendment expands the original Convention, adopted in 1979, to cover the protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. In addition, it expands the existing offences identified in the CPPNM, such as the theft of nuclear material, and introduces new ones, in particular the smuggling of nuclear material and the actual or threatened sabotage of nuclear facilities. Further, the Amendment provides for expanded cooperation and information sharing between States to locate and recover stolen material and in the case of sabotage.

The Agency will assist States in meeting their new obligations under the Amendment. We will hold a meeting of representatives of States party to the Amendment and the CPPNM from 30 November to 2 December.

There are still a large number of countries which are not parties to the Amendment. So we continue to urge all States to adhere to this important legal instrument.

In 2013, the IAEA organised the first international conference on nuclear security, at ministerial level, that was open to all Member States. In December 2016 we will host the International Conference on Nuclear Security in Vienna, Austria. We invite all Member States to be represented at the ministerial level in this conference. It will be an important opportunity to review the progress made and to discuss the way ahead.
Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction Attacks (CTITF WMD WG)

The current project of the CTITF WMD Working Group is entitled “Ensuring effective inter-agency interoperability and coordinated communication in case of chemical and/or biological attacks.” It is focused on improving inter-agency coordination in terms of operational activities and communication with the public to ensure an effective response to a terrorist attack involving chemical and/or biological weapons. The Working Group is chaired by IAEA and vice-chaired by OPCW.

The Project builds on two earlier reports of the Working Group, one in 2010, “Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Nuclear or Radiological Terrorist Attack,” and the other in 2011, “Interagency Coordination in the Event of a Terrorist Attack Using Chemical or Biological Weapons or Materials”. The latter report recognized there was no lead international agency with overall responsibility for the preparedness for, prevention of, and response to a chemical and/or biological terrorist attack, and that in fact, an array of interlocking responsibilities existed. That report also concluded that coordination among the concerned entities was of utmost importance.

Implementation of Phase I has been completed and resulted in the following activities and work products: hiring a Project Consultant, establishment of a network of interagency focal points; convening an initial workshop at OPCW HQ in The Hague in February 2015 to analyze gaps in and to explore solutions for better inter-agency coordination, which resulted in a set of Key Points; development of three scenario-based questionnaires and completion of a comprehensive analysis of responses received; compilation of a Common Understanding of Terms; development of two diagrams in the chemical and biological areas to visually help understand the roles and mandates of each participating entity in an inter-agency response; and an interim project report.

Implementation of Phase II of the project has started. It will consist of an inter-agency table-top exercise and field exercise simulation to test Phase I outputs and a final report which will include recommendations for proposed model tools for cooperation.
While the IAEA has no mandate for dealing with chemical or biological incidents, the project has drawn on the experience and lessons of the IAEA in responding to nuclear and radiological emergencies.