

Norway

IAEA Board of Governors, March 2023

Statement under the agenda item on Nuclear security: Nuclear Security Review 2023

Mr. Chair,

We are fully aligned with the statement made by Sweden on behalf of the EU and would like to add the following remarks in a national capacity.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing the draft Nuclear Security Review for 2023.

Norway recognises the IAEA as the cornerstone of the international nuclear security architecture and reaffirms its nuclear security mission and mandate. The Agency is indispensable in developing international security guidance, providing support to Member States, and in coordinating nuclear security activities.

We fully support the IAEA in its efforts to universalise the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the effective implementation of all obligations.

Norway strongly advocates minimising and eliminating the civilian use and stocks of highly enriched uranium (HEU). Converting to non-HEU alternatives will reduce nuclear-weapons-usable material to a minimum. A Joint Statement on this has been issued as Information Circular/912. There are several such information circulars that touch upon priority areas for securing nuclear and other radioactive material. Endorsing these Joint Statements is a concrete step that we as Member States can take to demonstrate our commitments to improved nuclear security practices.

Several years ago, Norway phased out Cesium-based blood irradiators, which represented the majority of Norway's Category 1 radioactive sources. This represents a permanent form of threat reduction and improvement of nuclear security. We call upon the IAEA to assist Member States, upon request, to deploy alternatives to high activity radioactive sources while still enjoying the benefits of peaceful uses.

As our efforts must take account of the rapid advances in science, technology and international commerce, we also emphasise the role of cyber in nuclear security. Norway contributes towards the IAEA's technical support to Member States in improving regulatory capabilities for cyber security inspections of nuclear installations.

Russia's unprovoked attack against Ukraine has severe implications for our common efforts to improve Nuclear Security. For many years, Norway has cooperated bilaterally with Ukraine on improving the physical protection of nuclear power plants, and in countering nuclear smuggling. In extremely challenging circumstances, we are affirming, and exploring how we can strengthen, our efforts to assist Ukraine in sustaining their capacity in this area.

Thank you.