

# 2018 EAS LEADERS' STATEMENT ON THE SAFE AND SECURE USE, STORAGE, AND TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

*Adopted in Singapore on 15 November 2018*

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Australia, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and the United States of America on the occasion of the 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Singapore, on 15 November 2018;

**RECALLING** the EAS Statement on Non-Proliferation adopted at the 11th EAS in 2016, wherein EAS Leaders reaffirmed their support for efforts at the national, regional and international levels to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism, and encouraging EAS participating countries to accelerate work on nuclear security objectives;

**NOTING** commitments in the field of nuclear safety and security, and recognising the importance of turning these commitments into actions;

**EMPHASISING** the need for the involvement of all States, where appropriate in nuclear safety and security-related activities and initiatives in an inclusive manner;

**UNDERLINING** the enduring need to raise awareness of nuclear safety and security among all stakeholders, including individuals and competent authorities involved in the use and management of nuclear and other radioactive materials;

**RECOGNISING** the need to strengthen and improve cooperation in, and the coordination of, international efforts in the field of nuclear safety and security in order to avoid duplication and overlap, and acknowledging the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s central role in this respect;

**RECOGNISING** that nuclear security and safety measures have the common aim of protecting human health, society and the environment, while acknowledging the distinctions between the two areas, and affirming the importance of coordination in this regard, and underlining the importance that, at the national level, both these areas are dealt with appropriately, by governments and their competent authorities according to their respective competencies;

**RECOGNISING** the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology and their importance in medicine and healthcare, agriculture, scientific research, energy, environment and industry;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of EAS participating countries establishing and maintaining effective and sustainable nuclear safety and security regulatory infrastructures, and further recognising the need to keep nuclear and other radioactive materials used for these purposes secure and under regulatory control, while recalling the right of all States to develop research, production of, and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes consistent with international law, including obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT);

**ASSERTING** that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and mindful of the responsibilities of every EAS participating country, in accordance with its national and

international obligations, to maintain at all times, effective and comprehensive security of all nuclear and other radioactive materials;

**REAFFIRMING** that responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the State having jurisdiction over a nuclear installation and recognising the central role of the IAEA in coordinating international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety globally, in providing expertise and advice in this field and in promoting nuclear safety and further recognising the prime responsibility of operators for nuclear safety;

**ASSERTING** that nuclear security can enhance international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities and acknowledging that while activities relating to nuclear security are the responsibilities of individual States, regional and global cooperation in the field of nuclear security can be greatly enhanced through collective commitments supported by national actions and other activities;

**REAFFIRMING** the central role of the IAEA in facilitating international cooperation in supporting the efforts of States to fulfill their responsibilities to ensure the security of civilian nuclear and other radioactive materials;

**RECOGNISING** the important role of other multilateral fora, organisations, and initiatives to which we respectively belong, in promoting international cooperation and strengthened national capabilities, and where appropriate, increasing technical knowledge and providing guidance and training;

**EXPRESSING** support for the work of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) in all dimensions including through cooperation, exchanging of information and complementing the work of existing mechanisms at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment extending its scope, welcoming the entry into force of that Amendment in 2016, recognising the importance of acceptance, approval or ratification by further States, and noting the importance of its full implementation and universalisation;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance of the relevant nuclear safety and emergency response conventions, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of minimising the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and using low enriched uranium (LEU), where technically and economically feasible;

**NOTING** that acts of nuclear terrorism may result in the gravest consequences and may pose a threat to international peace and security;

**NOTING** United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions 1373, 1540, 1673, 1810, 1977 and 2325, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/42, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and international efforts in conformity with these instruments to prevent access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and related materials;

**REAFFIRMING** the importance and the value of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, as approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 2003, and underlining the important role of the revised Supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, as approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 2011, and the Supplementary Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in 2017;

**RECOGNISING** that nuclear accidents may raise public concerns about nuclear energy and about the effects of radiation on present and future generations and the global environment;

**DO HEREBY DECIDE TO:**

1. **REAFFIRM** our resolve to strengthening nuclear safety and security and encourage States to turn these commitments into actions;
2. **ENCOURAGE** all States to implement measures nationally, regionally and internationally to ensure nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, as well as emergency preparedness and response, taking into account IAEA Safety Standards;
3. **ENCOURAGE** all States, particularly those considering introducing nuclear power or radiation technology or engaging in international nuclear cooperation, to develop, maintain and improve their nuclear safety and safety infrastructure and related scientific and technical capabilities, to strengthen regulatory effectiveness, and to enhance safety culture at all levels in their nuclear and radiation activities;
4. **CALL UPON** all States, within their responsibility, to achieve and maintain highly effective nuclear security, including physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials during use, storage and transport, and of the associated facilities in their life cycle, as well as protecting sensitive information;
5. **ENCOURAGE** all States to maintain and improve their nuclear security infrastructure, and encourage States in a position to do so to assist others in this regard;
6. **NOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF** continued engagement and coordination on nuclear safety and security with multilateral fora, organisations, and initiatives to which we respectively belong;
7. **ENCOURAGE** all States to continue exchanging safety and security relevant findings and lessons learned among regulators, technical and scientific support organisations, regional networks such as ASEANTOM, operators and industry, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis;
8. **ENCOURAGE** all States that are party to the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment to fully implement their obligations thereunder, and encourage States that have not yet done so to become party to the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment;
9. **ENCOURAGE** all States that have not yet done so to become party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;
10. **REAFFIRM** the EAS participating countries' commitment to the full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 to prevent non-State actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear weapons and their means of delivery;
11. **CALL UPON** States to establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective domestic controls over nuclear and other radioactive materials as decided by the UNSC in its Resolution 1540;
12. **PROMOTE** support for the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance and encourage all States to support and implement them;
13. **URGE** all States that have not yet done so, and as appropriate, to become Contracting Parties to the relevant existing international nuclear safety and emergency response conventions;

14. **ENCOURAGE** all States to build a robust domestic nuclear safety and security regime in accordance with the relevant respective national laws and international obligations, and taking into account IAEA safety standards and security guidance;
15. **ENCOURAGE** all States to promote international exchanges of experience, knowledge and good practices as regards ways to develop, foster and maintain a robust nuclear safety and security culture compatible with States' nuclear safety and security regimes;
16. **ENCOURAGE** all States to strengthen national nuclear safety and security through capacity building efforts, including through training and education, and through regional or international networks, and to include nuclear security centers of excellence;
17. **WELCOME** voluntary information released by States on their policies to ensure the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive materials;
18. **PROMOTE** continued dialogue on the security of radioactive sources, including disused and orphan radioactive sources;
19. **ENCOURAGE** States to conduct exercises to strengthen national capabilities to prepare and respond to a nuclear safety and security event involving nuclear or other radioactive materials;
20. **CALL UPON** all States to improve and sustain their national capabilities to prevent, detect, deter and respond to illicit trafficking and other unauthorised activities and events involving nuclear and other radioactive materials throughout their territories, and to meet their relevant international obligations;
21. **NOTE** the utility of the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) as a voluntary mechanism for the international exchange of information on incidents and illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive materials, and encourage all States to join and participate actively in the ITDB programme in support of their national efforts to prevent, detect and respond to radioactive and nuclear materials that may have fallen out of regulatory control;
22. **ENCOURAGE** all States to continue efforts on their territory to recover and secure nuclear and other radioactive materials that have fallen out of regulatory and management control;
23. **ENCOURAGE** States concerned, on a voluntary basis, to further minimise highly enriched uranium (HEU) in civilian stocks and use low enriched uranium (LEU) where technically and economically feasible;
24. **ENCOURAGE** broader cooperation on the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials through discussions and exchanges on new developments and ways to permanently reduce risk;
25. **ENCOURAGE** further engagement, awareness and cooperation between policymakers and key stakeholders in science, academia and industry, in EAS participating countries in furtherance of strengthening nuclear safety and security.