United Nations High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism 
with a Specific Focus on Strengthening the Legal Framework

28 September 2012

Chair’s Summary

The United Nations High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism with a Specific Focus on Strengthening the Legal Framework was held on 28 September 2012 at United Nations Headquarters in New York and chaired by United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon. The meeting was organized by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office, in partnership with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Statements during the opening session were made by the Secretary-General, as well as H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, H.E. Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Vice-Chancellor of Austria, H.E. Mr. Héctor Marcos Timerman, Foreign Minister of Argentina, and H.E. Mr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia.

The High-Level Meeting was attended by over 130 United Nations Member States and relevant international organizations and United Nations bodies, including CTITF entities, and members of civil society. Amongst the Member States, 28 participated at the ministerial level or higher. The proceedings of the High-Level Meeting were co-chaired in plenary session by H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-hwan, Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea, and Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC.

The High-Level Meeting had two objectives: first, to strengthen the legal framework to prevent nuclear terrorism; and second, to enhance capacity-building efforts to assist States in ensuring the effective implementation of their international obligations as they relate to countering the threat of nuclear terrorism and strengthening nuclear security. These twin objectives of the High-Level Meeting were in accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan. The High-Level Meeting was also an important step towards promoting international cooperation in combating terrorism, as called for under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.1

At the Closing Session of the High-Level Meeting, Mr. Yury Fedotov presented this Chair’s Summary on behalf of the Secretary-General, which reflects the Secretary-General’s understanding of the views expressed at the High-Level Meeting:

1 These include A/RES/62/272, A/RES/64/297 and A/RES/66/282.
Participants thanked the Secretary-General for his initiative of convening the High-Level Meeting. They also appreciated the leadership of the Secretary-General in strengthening global efforts to work against the threat of nuclear terrorism and on enhancing nuclear security. In this regard, some participants recognized the contribution of the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security convened by the Secretary-General in September 2011, which served as a bridge to the successful Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul in March 2012. Participants welcomed the opportunity provided by the High-Level Meeting to discuss national and international efforts, share ideas and consolidate their resolve to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism.

Participants underscored their strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed.

Participants recognized the challenging threat posed by nuclear terrorism and by the dangerous prospect of terrorists or other non-State actors acquiring nuclear materials necessary for the production of nuclear weapons or acquiring other radioactive material for use in radioactive dispersal devices. They also underscored their determination to counter this threat through resolute national laws, institutions and practices, effective nuclear security measures, and through enhanced international cooperation. They emphasized that on-going and future work at the international, regional and national levels, and especially greater international cooperation, are essential to address the threat of nuclear terrorism and continuously improve nuclear security. Participants also stressed the important role of the General Assembly in addressing the issue of terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction in an inclusive manner.

Participants emphasized the importance of increasing the number of States Parties to the instruments that comprise the multilateral counter-terrorism legal framework, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Taken together, the various instruments serve as a comprehensive multilateral legal regime to address the threat posed by nuclear terrorism, and States Parties to the instruments were encouraged to implement them at the national level by incorporating their provisions in domestic legislation. States that have not yet done so were urged to take the necessary steps to become party to any remaining instruments and, in particular, the importance of bringing into force the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM was highlighted, with 2014 set as a realisable goal. Attention was also drawn to the need to strengthen regulations relating to the safety and security of the transportation of radioactive materials.

Participants recognized the key role played by UNODC and the IAEA in promoting the ratification and the full implementation of the international legal instruments dealing with nuclear terrorism and nuclear security, within their respective mandates. In particular, participants welcomed UNODC’s and the IAEA’s ongoing efforts to assist requesting Member States in this process, as mandated by the General Assembly and the IAEA General Conference. In this respect, participants invited Member States to avail themselves of the UNODC’s and the IAEA’s successful and long-established technical legal assistance programme and capacity-building activities, and to continue to support them, including financially.
Participants welcomed the positive impact that UNODC’s Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism has had in increasing the number of ratifications and achieving effective implementation of the international legal instruments against nuclear terrorism.

Some participants recalled that under article 20 the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, States Parties shall conduct consultations with one another directly or through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of international organizations as necessary, to ensure effective implementation of the Convention. The possibility of employing such a mechanism in the future was encouraged at this High-Level Meeting.

Participants stressed their support for the objectives of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in addressing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-State actors. The resolution constitutes an integral part of the global nuclear security architecture. Participants also stressed that the full and effective implementation of the resolution could contribute significantly to international undertakings aimed at denying non-state actors the ability to carry out acts of nuclear terrorism and obtaining access to nuclear weapons.

While underlining the need for strengthened national efforts to fully implement the requirements of resolution 1540 (2004), participants also called for enhanced and inclusive cooperation at the international, regional and sub-regional levels. In this context, participants stressed the important role of the United Nations, the IAEA, and other international organizations in promoting, facilitating and actively supporting such cooperation, including through the Security Council’s Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Participants recognized that each State carries the full responsibility for its nuclear security, and that all States must respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism by establishing a comprehensive and sustainable national security infrastructure to prevent unauthorized access to or use of nuclear and other radioactive material. Participants also recognized that it was the national responsibility of all States to provide the necessary international framework to ensure the safe handling of nuclear material, and to prevent such materials from being acquired by terrorists and other illicit actors. In this regard, General Assembly resolution 66/50, entitled “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction” was recalled and its continued implementation was supported. It was stressed that a clear connection exists between nuclear security, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. Accordingly, it was emphasized that nuclear terrorism and nuclear security could not be dealt with in isolation.

Participants stated that the IAEA has essential responsibility and a key role in strengthening the international nuclear security framework and in supporting States to fulfill their nuclear security responsibilities, including through the provision of practical assistance. The essential role of the IAEA in coordinating international activities in the area of nuclear security was acknowledged. Participants thanked the IAEA Director General for his leadership and work in this area.
Participants expressed the view that the IAEA is the sole intergovernmental organization within the UN system with the mandate and expertise to deal with the technical subjects of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

Participants welcomed the IAEA efforts to assist States, upon their request, in establishing effective and sustainable nuclear security systems and urged additional support to such efforts, including through financial contributions. Participants also called for a strengthened role of the IAEA in emergency preparedness and response to nuclear incidents.

Participants encouraged each other to make use of the IAEA assistance in building and implementing their Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to develop their own nuclear security capacities.

Participants underscored their concern over the continuing threat posed by the trafficking of nuclear and highly radioactive material. Participants recognized the IAEA’s central role in compiling and sharing information through the Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) on illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and on events involving nuclear and other radioactive material.

In addition, participants referred to the importance of ongoing activities to secure international land borders, seaports and airports and to enhance global capacity to detect and respond to smuggling activities. In this regard, special emphasis was placed by participants on capacity-building initiatives, including through the development of specialized teams.

Participants also recalled the significance of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. A number of participants emphasized the need for steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which would also benefit efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism. Participants also reaffirmed the right of all States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and a number of participants stressed that measures taken to combat nuclear terrorism should not be used to deny or restrict this right.

A number of participants emphasized the importance of nuclear security and drew attention to notable international efforts addressing the issue. In addition to the Nuclear Security Summit, these international processes included the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the G-8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, and the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Participants welcomed the voluntary efforts of States to enhance their nuclear security, including by limiting their use of highly enriched uranium.

Participants reaffirmed the important role of the CTITF and its efforts to promote and coordinate international cooperation and capacity-building more generally in the field of counter-terrorism. Participants also noted with appreciation the activities of the CTITF Working Group on Preventing and Responding to WMD Attacks.

In addition, some participants highlighted the importance of reaching consensus on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, currently being negotiated in the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly.
Participants also underscored the importance of implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced and integrated manner in order to counter the threat of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Participants welcomed the opportunity presented by the United Nations’ High-Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism with a Specific Focus on Strengthening the Legal Framework to further dialogue on a range of methods and topics to increase multilateral action against nuclear terrorism. Participants also welcomed the International Conference on Nuclear Security, to be convened by the IAEA in July 2013.
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United Nations Headquarters, New York
28 September, 2012
Programme of the Event

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 0900 – 0945 | **Opening Session: Common approaches to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism (Maximum four-minute interventions by eminent speakers)**  
Chair: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
- Keynote Address: H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the General Assembly  
- H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
- H.E. Mr. Michael Spindelegger, Vice-Chancellor, Austria  
- H.E. Mr. Héctor Marcos Timerman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina  
- H.E. Mr. R. M. Marty M. Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia |
| 1000 – 1235 | **Thematic Session: Strengthening the legal framework to counter nuclear terrorism and enhancing capacity-building efforts (Maximum four-minute interventions from the floor)**  
Session Co-Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-hwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea  
Session Co-Chairperson: Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
Speakers’ List  
Remarks by Session Co-Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Kim Sung-hwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea |
| 1235 – 1300 | **Closing Session: The way forward**  
Chair’s Summary delivered by Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on behalf of the Secretary-General |