

NUCLEAR SECURITY A GLOBAL RESPONSE TO A GLOBAL THREAT

The threat of nuclear terrorism is real. The possibility of criminals getting hold of nuclear and other radioactive material cannot be ruled out. Much progress has been made in tackling this threat nationally, regionally and globally, but more needs to be done. International cooperation is vital. As the global platform for cooperation in nuclear security, the IAEA helps countries to establish and maintain robust and sustainable national nuclear security regimes. We help ensure that measures are taken to protect nuclear and other radioactive material, as well as the facilities in which such material is housed, from malicious acts. This has been an important year for nuclear security with the entry into force of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. This establishes legally binding commitments for countries to protect nuclear facilities as well as nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport. I encourage all countries that have not yet done so to adhere to this Amendment and thereby contribute to a stronger global nuclear security regime. For example, in Kazakhstan, the world's leading uranium producing country, security measures developed with the IAEA have helped to make uranium reserves more secure.

The primary responsibility for nuclear security lies with each individual country. But the threat to nuclear security is global and requires a global response. One of the ways in which the IAEA contributes is by bringing together political leaders and technical experts to share experience and learn from each other. There is a pressing need to aware all stakeholders including civil society about the importance of safety from nuclear materials as they are also used in medical applications, science labs and welding industry.