

NUCLEAR MATERIAL ACCOUNTING AND CONTROL AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION

At the Moscow Nuclear Safety and Security Summit, the importance of IAEA safeguards and of effective nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection in ensuring the security of nuclear material and preventing its diversion was reaffirmed. This constitutes a useful contribution to advancing the nuclear non-proliferation agenda. The work already accomplished in the area of improving nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection was stressed, further effort and cooperation where required were encouraged, and certain principles for nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection and their relation to global nuclear non-proliferation objectives reaffirmed.

The Summit reached a common understanding on the following :

- reaffirmation of support for the I.A.E.A. safeguards regime, which plays a critical role in providing assurance against the diversion of nuclear material going undetected, for an increased capability to detect undeclared nuclear activities, and for appropriately strengthening the regime where required ;

- recognition of the importance of effective nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection, of the fundamental responsibility of nations to ensure the security of all nuclear material in their possession and, to this end, of the necessity for effective national - including, where appropriate for this purpose, EURATOM - systems of nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection, including regulations, licensing, inspections, and state systems of accounting and control ;

- the need for adherence to clearly established standards and recommendations for nuclear material accounting and control and physical protection and for nations to ensure the effectiveness of national and facility-level accounting and control and physical protection procedures in relation to these standards and recommendations.