

The Moscow Nonproliferation Conference 2012 - Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS)

Concurrent session 1: Strengthening Nuclear Security: Between Seoul and The Hague

Saturday 8 September 2012

Thank you Elena

Thank you to the CENESS and to Anton for inviting us

Your excellencies, dear ladies and gentlemen,

1. The Netherlands is honored to be able to organize NSS 2014 and to continue the process initiated by president Obama. It will be a challenge after the very successful summit in Seoul, and previously in Washington, but we will do our utmost best to match the high level of organization and outcome in the two previous summits. We are still in listening and studying mode. At the same time we are also moving to the first Sherpa meeting end of November in Istanbul. In relation some thoughts are emerging that I would like to share with you. Thank you to the CENESS for giving me this opportunity.
2. The main aim of the NSS is to secure attention at highest political level for the dangers of nuclear terrorism and to set in motion measures to prevent this threat from happening. As president Obama said in his Prague speech in 2009, the goal was and is to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years. The Washington Work Plan and the Seoul Communiqué are providing us a clear direction. They have a build-in agenda that has been helping us to carve out the work.

3. Allow me to highlight a few topics of the NSS agenda, also in relation to the Summit in 2014. As I said we are still in the process of working out our strategy and our priorities, but these are some of the topics we will have to discuss.

- To minimize the use of Highly Enriched Uranium. On a national level we have made a commitment to phase out the use of HEU by 2015, which still now is being used in the production of medical isotopes. We hope other will follow in phasing out the use of HEU in their countries.
- Another topic to work on will be the CPPNM, the amended version. One of the key deliverables will be the continued ratification of the CPPNM so it can enter into force before the 2014 Summit. Still, 39 countries need to ratify it.
- Third, we will want to discuss how we can stimulate the use of IPPAS missions, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service.
- Fourth, radiological sources. This was one of the topics added in Seoul, and we will have to start thinking what to do with it. How do we best improve the protection of these sources? Is it feasible? Should we look at all sources or set priorities and only look at the most dangerous ones.
- Fifth, Nuclear forensics. Expanding and sharing knowledge on nuclear forensics is important to (1) trace back a source or nuclear material to its origins (prevent future incidents), and (2) to successfully indict nuclear terrorists and criminals. Within the NSS, the Netherlands has taken up the lead through the Netherlands Forensic Institute.
- Another goal of the NSS agenda is to create and nurture a security *culture* that is essential to maintain awareness across a multitude of

actors and players worldwide. Industry has an important role to play here as well.

- Finally, and connected to the previous point, we look forward to have an Industry Summit and NGO/academics event in connection to the NSS. Their involvement is highly important to implement agreed principles, to incorporate their knowledge of feasibility of security measures, and to reach out to them. With regard to industry, some effort is already underway. Urenco Netherlands has offered to take the lead in this and they are very actively working on this. We will have to make sure that we get the link and the timing with the NSS process right. So we are happy they have started already.

So, these are some of the priorities that we are foreseeing for 2014.

4. But maybe an even bigger question is what will happen to the NSS process itself after the 2014 summit. To which direction should the NSS process be allowed to develop? Although this is up to the membership to decide, roughly two lines of thought can be distinguished:

- One line implies that we should keep the NSS going in its current form of organizing a High Level Summit every 2 or 4 years. Having a summit helps a lot to focus the attention of everyone. I heard someone describe it as a forcing event, an event that makes things happen. It is also a moment of accountability. So, when a leader is going to a meeting, he wants to show results. Summits provide a political framework for experts to work together.

- Yet, the question is what is the best way forward to advance what some have called the ‘nuclear security mission’. Now there is as far as I know not an agreed or official definition of what that is. So my understanding of that is “a process of continuous and systematic advancing of nuclear security”. The initiative of President Obama and the Seoul Summit have undoubtedly given an enormous impetus to this. Yet some people think it would be better if the existing organisations and fora would take over the role of advancing nuclear security. The ambitions and goals have now been set out quite clearly and what we have to concentrate on is implementation. If we would follow this line of thinking, then the question to concentrate on would be whether the conditions are there for those fora and organization to take over that responsibility.
5. This brings us to the IAEA. The Seoul Communique clearly says that the IAEA has “an essential responsibility and central role in the strengthening of the international nuclear security framework”. The Work Plan and Communique refer to a number of instruments that are part of the IAEA structure and very useful, such as the CPPNM, the IAEA Nuclear Security Conference and Nuclear Security Plan. This makes the IAEA a natural partner to further the goal of nuclear security. The IAEA has worldwide acknowledged expertise and legitimacy, and would be (one of) the most respected institution(s) to safeguard the continuation of the NSS process. Leading up to the upcoming Sherpa-meeting in Istanbul end of November, we should engage in a discussion of what could be the best form to guarantee the progress made in the NSS, after 2014.

6. The discussion of how the NSS process should evolve and how to safeguard its deliverables, are elements that also affect countries that do not take part in the NSS. Ultimately the NSS process is an *open* process that affects all countries worldwide. It is of essential importance that other countries, industry, NGOs and the academic sector, remain involved as well. The aim of nuclear security is covered by different overlapping instruments, making it a global endeavor. Therefore outreach initiatives, with partners and friends of the chair, will continue to be initiated.

7. As you might have heard in the last two days, the location of NSS 2014 will be the World Forum in The Hague. The Hague is being called the international legal capital of the world. You might also know that this has some Russian roots. Because it was actually the Russian Tsar Nicholas II, who in 1899 initiated the very first international peace conference at The Hague. The conference even opened on the Tsar's birthday. In 2014, we will have the NSS between 23 and 25 of March. I am not sure whether it is the birthday of President Putin, I think I was told it is in the fall somewhere, but maybe Anton's birthday falls in that period. Anyhow, we look forward to the welcoming the NSS in The Hague in March 2014.