Lecture 5. Nuclear Security Summits and Conferences

Course “New Challenges to the Nonproliferation Regime”

Dr. Alexey Ubeevo

Dual Master’s Degree Program in Nonproliferation Studies
Moscow, Fall - Winter 2016
OUTLINES

✓ Moscow 1996 Nuclear Safety and Security Summit (G7+ Russia)

✓ Background and Washington 2010 Nuclear Security Summit


✓ What’s next?
Moscow 1996 Nuclear Safety and Security Summit

✓ 19-20 April 1996 (G7+ Russia+ Ukraine)
✓ Initiated by the Russian President B. Yeltsin at G7 Summit in Halifax (1995);
✓ First summit dedicated to such a specific issues as nuclear safety and security;

Main documents of the summit:

- Declaration
- Statement on CTBT
- Statement on Ukraine (Chernobyl)
- Programme on preventing and combatting illicit trafficking in nuclear material
- A set of background documents on nuclear safety and others.
Moscow’s Nuclear Summit Declaration covers, in particular:

- Safety of Civilian Nuclear Reactors;
- Nuclear Liability;
- Nuclear Waste Management;
- Nuclear Material Security;
- Preventing and Combatting Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Material;
- Nuclear Material Control, Accountancy and Physical Protection;
- Safe and Effective Management of Weapons Fissile Material Designated as No Longer Required for Defence Purposes;

Are these issues still actual?
Moscow 1996 Summit: some interesting facts or 20 years after

- Leaders reaffirm their commitment to conclude and sign a CTBT by September 1996;
- Leaders called for expansion of nuclear weapons-free zones and joint monitoring of nuclear material;
- The declaration underscored the importance of ongoing bilateral cooperation between Moscow and Washington, especially in the area of securing nuclear military materials;
- Meeting was held almost exactly 10 years after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Ukrainian president expressed readiness to close Chernobyl NPP by 2000;
- B. Yeltsin introduced a proposal aimed at limiting deployment of nuclear weapons to the country that owns them. He said: "Russia considers it a proliferation of nuclear arms when nuclear weapons are placed on the territory of non-nuclear states"
Nuclear Security Summits (venue and participation)

- **Seoul 2012**: 53+4
- **Washington 2010**: 47+3
- **Hague 2014**: 53+4
- **Washington 2016**: 52+4

Nearly 50 State’s Leaders + UN, IAEA, EU and INTERPOL
Background and objectives

- The nuclear security summit idea was announced by US President Obama in his speech in Prague in April 2009;
- The first nuclear security summit was held in April 2010 in Washington. It was one of the largest gathering of heads of government or state. The invitations were selective, limited to just 47 states;
- Attendance by India, Israel, and Pakistan was particularly important. Iran, North Korea, Syria, Belarus and others were not invited, *that evoked some disgruntlement*;
- **Main objectives:**
  - Strengthening the global nuclear security architecture;
  - Provide a forum for leaders to engage with each other and to reinforce at the highest levels their commitment to securing and eliminating nuclear materials, and preventing nuclear smuggling.
Outcomes and Documents of Washington 2010 Summit

Three main outcomes:

- Communiqué (non-binding);
- Work Plan;
- Over 30 national statements with pledges to take particular steps to improve nuclear security.

Some reasons for Summit’s success:

- to keep the agenda focused strictly on nuclear security and to avoid the nonproliferation and disarmament topics (DPRK, Iran, Middle East free - zone of WMD and so on);
- the intensive use of “Sherpas” and “sous-Sherpas”, senior officials, designated by each government to prepare for the Summit.

---

Highlights of National Commitments
Nuclear Security Summit
April 12-14, 2010

Armenia: Ratified International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, passed new export control law


Australia: Moving toward the ratification of the International Convention on Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

Belgium: Contributing €300,000 to International Atomic Energy Agency’s Nuclear Security Fund
Seoul, 26-27 March 2012. Six new States invited + INTERPOL

The agenda was expanded beyond nuclear material to encompass:

- The interface between nuclear safety and nuclear security at nuclear facilities (one year after Fukushima disaster);
- The security of radiological material, which can be used in radiological dispersal devices (RDDs) or radiological weapons.

The main issues discussed were:

- Cooperative measures to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism
- Protection of nuclear materials and related facilities
- Prevention of illicit trafficking of nuclear materials

The DPRK and Iran nuclear issues didn’t dominate the agenda.
Some outcomes of Seoul Summit

The Seoul Communiqué built on the objectives and measures set out in the 2010 Washington Communiqué to identify 11 areas of priority and importance in nuclear security and presents specific actions in each area.

**The 11 areas are as follows:**

- the global nuclear security architecture;
- the role of the IAEA;
- nuclear materials;
- radioactive sources;
- nuclear security and safety;
- transportation security;
- combating illicit trafficking;
- nuclear forensics;
- nuclear security culture;
- information security;
- and international cooperation;

The 2012 NSS goes beyond the pledges made in 2010 and agreed to take concrete steps (Gift baskets). The absence of a Work plan do not compromise the practical implementation.

Some states opposed the two new items (safety and radiological threat), saying that they would dilute the focus of the summit.
Hague 2014 Nuclear Security Summit

The Hague Summit (24-25 March 2014) built upon the accomplishments of the two previous NSSs in 2010 and 2012 and focused on three main goals:

- reducing the amount of dangerous nuclear material in the world (HEU and PU);
- improving the security of all nuclear material and radioactive sources; and
- improving international cooperation.

The Hague Communiqué also covers 11 areas of priority and importance in nuclear security as previous communiqués.

14 “Gift baskets” (Joint Statements on Nuclear security topics. For example, 23 countries issued “Statement on Enhancing Radiological Security “, dealing with securing Category 1 radioactive sources).

Ukrainian crisis overshadowed the talks.
Washington 2016 Nuclear Security Summit

➤ The fourth and final 2016 Nuclear Security Summit held March 31 and April 1 in Washington. Final consensus Communiqué emphasized Summit achievements and outline further steps required to secure vulnerable nuclear materials;
➤ All participating countries and international organizations presented their progress reports and national statements;
➤ 21 “Gift baskets”;
➤ Meeting will unveil Action Plans for the five main international organizations and initiatives working to secure nuclear and radiological materials: IAEA, UN, INTERPOL, GICNT and Global Partnership.

Implementation of the Action Plans will occur through the decision-making processes of each institution, and will rely on the ability to attract support from members outside the Summit process. Actions Plans “...to be carried out on a voluntary basis and consistent with national laws and respective international obligations” (Communiqué)

Russia didn’t participate
The Nuclear Industry Summit (NIS) is an official side event of the Nuclear Security Summit. During NIS 2016, the international industry formulated a Joint statement which was presented to the world leaders at the 2016 NSS and address three key areas:

- Securing the Use, Storage and Transport of Strategic Nuclear and Radiological Materials;
- Managing the Cyber Threat;
- The Role of the Nuclear Industry Globally.

Nuclear Knowledge Summit (NGO Fora) is also an official side event of NSS. Civil society has a crucial role to play in this vital ongoing process. It must generate ideas, track progress, build dialogues, provide education and training.
Food for thought

Some positive outcomes of Nuclear Security Summits:

✓ The NSS speeds up the process leading to global agreements on preventing nuclear terrorism. The presence and direct involvement of world leaders enable the achievement of results that would otherwise only be attained after a long time, if at all;

✓ It is also important to anchor the results achieved in existing forums and mechanisms, such as the IAEA, thereby ensuring that nuclear security will continue to improve even after the NSS cycle has come to an end;

✓ The NSS process has yielded impressive results thus far, including the complete removal of HEU from 12 countries, the shutdown or conversion LEU fuel use of 24 research reactors and isotope production facilities that had previously used HEU, and the upgrade of security at 32 buildings that store fissile materials.
Some doubts:

- The documents approved at summits are non-binding;
- The invitations to States were selective, sometimes conditioned and without well-defined criteria so far;
- Actions plans set the agenda for international organizations – it raise some concerns; "We believe it is unacceptable to create a precedent of such outside interference into the work of international organizations“ (Russian FM S. Lavrov said, adding that Russia would instead focus on its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency);
- Organizing a global summit costs money (NSS 2014 cost was around €24 million, excluding security costs)
The first IAEA’S International Symposium on Nuclear Security was held in Vienna from 30 March to 3 April 2009. Around 500 participants from 76 countries attended, mostly Vienna-based delegations and their national experts, but no ministers;

The event provided policymakers and experts with the opportunity to determine how to best coordinate their efforts to improve nuclear security, manage radioactive sources, and combat nuclear terrorism.

Convened at its Vienna headquarters in July 2013, the “International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts” promised to “provide a timely global forum in which the progress made in strengthening nuclear security worldwide could be reviewed and future developments discussed.” (IAEA DG Statement)
IAEA Nuclear Security Conference 2013

- Held on 1-5 July 2013 in Vienna
- Around 1 300 participants, including some 34 Government Ministers and other Heads of Delegation from 125 States, as well as 21 governmental and NGO
- Ministerial Declaration adopted by consensus
- Conference:
  1. Reviewed experience and achievements
  2. Enhanced understanding of current approaches and identified trends
  3. Discussed technical developments and issues
  4. Formulated views on the future directions and priorities for nuclear security
The conference was held 5-9 December 2016 in Vienna and has brought together some 2000 participants from more than 130 Member States and 17 international, regional and non-governmental organizations.

The Ministerial Declaration, adopted at a plenary session attended by more than 50 ministers welcomed “advances made by IAEA Member States in developing and enhancing their nuclear security regimes” as well as the “positive impact of the Agency’s increasing nuclear security efforts” even as “much more work remains to be done”.
INSTEAD OF CONCLUSION...

✓ Nuclear security summits were a good opportunity for leaders to recognize that nuclear security remains a challenge to global peace and to reinforce at the highest levels the efforts for preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism. The presence and direct involvement of world leaders enable the achievement of results;

✓ IAEA could take over at least some of the functions of the nuclear security summits beyond 2016. The Agency as a forum is more representative than summit. Unlike the summits, the ministerial sessions of its 2013 and 2016 nuclear security conferences were open to all participants;

✓ But, IAEA is not dealing with all parts of the nuclear security summit process and limited by its credentials and resources. So, it is still unclear about what the post - 2016 arrangements should be.
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?