

# 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Implementation of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by Slovenia

### I. Introduction

1. Slovenia is fully committed to the goals, object and purpose of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which underline the common aspiration of its States parties: a world free of nuclear weapons. For Slovenia, the Treaty and its three mutually reinforcing pillars are the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. Slovenia considers all three pillars equally important.

2. The present national report is submitted in accordance with action 20 of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I)). It gives an account of activities undertaken by Slovenia, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, in order to contribute to the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty with regard to the three pillars. These activities are accounted for according to each of the 64 actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference.

### II. Implementation

#### A. Nuclear disarmament

##### 1. Principles and objectives

###### *Action 1*

3. Slovenia is fully committed to the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world. This goal can be achieved only with a progressive approach focused on concrete steps and tangible results. Slovenia considers the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to be of equal importance. Much progress has been achieved with regard to non-proliferation. However, there has been a lack of progress with regard to



disarmament. Slovenia acknowledges the existence of differing viewpoints on how to approach nuclear disarmament, which has had an adverse effect on the Treaty. Nevertheless, Slovenia is convinced that this issue can be overcome with the international community focusing its attention on common goals and objectives with regard to nuclear disarmament.

4. Multilateralism is at the heart of Slovenian foreign policy. According to the Declaration on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, No. 53/15), strengthened multilateralism is one of the central goals of Slovenian foreign policy. This is further specified by the Strategy on the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, which states that international peace and security are facilitated by engagement in multilateral organizations and forums, primarily in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

5. In this connection, Slovenia, as a member of the European Union, actively participates in the Council of the European Union's Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports, and in other areas related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Slovenia is involved in the work of several bodies that deal with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. As the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2021, Slovenia hosted a special meeting on non-proliferation and disarmament, which was also attended by the European Union Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen. It also hosted and held meetings with Ambassador Gustavo Rodolfo Zlauvinen, President-designate of the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, who also gave a widely-read interview for the main Slovenian daily *Delo*. During his visit, Ambassador Zlauvinen also met bilaterally with Ambassador Dr. Stanislav Raščan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

#### *Action 2*

6. Slovenia has repeatedly shown its commitment to the principle of comprehensive, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament through statements and support for resolutions in relevant multilateral forums. In terms of other Treaty obligations pertaining to transparency and verifiability, Slovenia has concluded a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), complemented by an additional protocol. The Slovenian legal framework was adapted in the process of accession to the European Union. Slovenia is also a State party to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. Slovenia completely abides by its obligations pertaining to nuclear safeguards.

## **2. Disarmament of nuclear weapons**

#### *Action 3*

7. Slovenia appreciates that significant reductions in nuclear arsenals have been made in the past. However, and as stated in response to action 1, there has been a lack of progress with regard to disarmament in recent years. Additionally, the existence of differing viewpoints on how to approach nuclear disarmament presents a significant challenge to the international community, which will have to be overcome in order to achieve tangible results in this field. See also response to action 5.

#### *Action 4*

8. Slovenia welcomes the results brought about by the implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START

Treaty). It therefore repeatedly called for the extension of the New START Treaty beyond 2021, also at the level of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Anže Logar, in June 2020, who expressed his support for a future arms control regime as well.

9. Slovenia welcomed the relaunch of the Strategic Stability Dialogue between the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Additionally, the Slovenian side welcomes the United States' exemplary commitment to transparency and its decision to release declassified information regarding its nuclear weapons stockpile.

10. The importance that Slovenia attaches to this issue was also emphasized by Dr. Andrej Benedejčič, Ambassador in charge of Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, at the Seventeenth Annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation, held in September 2021, which he attended as the representative of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

#### *Action 5*

11. Slovenia considers this action as one of the principle measures to facilitate the step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament. As indicated in the response to action 1, Slovenia believes there was a lack of progress with regard to nuclear disarmament. The existing international and regional tensions, together with the deterioration of the international security environment, are not conducive to nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, Slovenia believes the measures listed in action 5, for instance those connected to risk reduction, are of a practical nature, and could assist in overcoming the current state of affairs.

#### *Action 6*

12. Slovenia supports the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on nuclear disarmament. Slovenia participates in the work of the Conference on Disarmament as an observer and has continuously insisted on becoming a member of the Conference on Disarmament on various occasions. This was one of the key messages of Slovenian Heads of Delegation at the high-level segment of annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, most recently by Dr. Stanislav Raščan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, in January 2021.

### **3. Security assurances**

#### *Action 7*

13. Slovenia supports the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament on negative security assurances. It has also actively taken part in the 2010 high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

#### *Action 8*

14. Not applicable.

#### *Action 9*

15. Slovenia has repeatedly shown support for all resolutions of the General Assembly related to nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the resolutions entitled: Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the region of the Middle East; Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco); Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas; African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty; Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-

Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty); Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia; Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status; and Fourth Conference of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia, 2020.

16. Slovenia is convinced the progress towards the implementation of the Resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, which demands the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, is long overdue. Such a process should be inclusive and universal. As for the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction held in November 2019, we stress the hope that the next Conference will mark the beginning of an inclusive process in which all countries in the region will participate.

#### **4. Nuclear testing**

##### *Action 10*

17. In various multilateral forums and in bilateral contacts Slovenia has been actively encouraging Annex 2 countries to sign and/or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in order to achieve its early entry into force.

##### *Action 11*

18. Slovenia has repeatedly stressed and defended the importance of upholding the norm of the nuclear testing ban. Slovenia is in full compliance with the Treaty, which it signed on 24 September 1996 and ratified on 31 August 1999.

##### *Action 12*

19. Slovenia actively participated at the ministerial level in Article XIV Conferences held in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and most recently in 2021, when the Head of the Slovenian Delegation was Dr. Anže Logar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. Slovenia has been also an active supporter and participant of the biannual ministerial conferences organized by the Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on the margins of the General Assembly. Slovenia regularly reports on the activities undertaken for the promotion of the entry into force of the Treaty. See also response to action 10.

##### *Action 13*

20. Slovenia promotes the entry into force of the Treaty bilaterally and in various multilateral forums. In May 2016, Slovenia hosted the Twelfth Annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation, with then-Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive Secretary, Lassina Zerbo, as one of the keynote speakers. It was also attended by the European Union Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Ambassador Jacek Bylica. In September 2016, Slovenia also organized a panel discussion on reinventing European security, which took place at the annual Bled Strategic Forum, an annual high-level event for the discussion of pressing regional and global issues. One of the keynote speakers was the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo, who also took part in a discussion on global nuclear governance that took place in the Forum a year later, in September 2017. See also responses to actions 10 and 12.

*Action 14*

21. Slovenia does not host facilities that are part of the International Monitoring System. It has consistently supported the International Monitoring System, which not only deters non-compliance with the Treaty, but provides data that can be used for a variety of civil and scientific applications. Slovenia will continue to advocate the full utilization of the potential benefits of these applications, since they can contribute to sustainable development, knowledge expansion and human welfare. In this connection, Slovenia has also supported the International Monitoring System with voluntary contributions.

**5. Fissile materials***Action 15*

22. Slovenia has continuously called for an immediate commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with document [CD/1299](#) and the mandate contained therein. In this connection, Slovenia has supported the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly pertaining to banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. See also response to action 7.

*Action 16*

23. Not applicable.

*Action 17*

24. Nothing to report.

*Action 18*

25. There are no fissile material production facilities in the territory of Slovenia.

**6. Other measures in support of nuclear disarmament***Action 19*

26. Slovenia supports cooperation among all relevant stakeholders with regard to increasing confidence, improving transparency and developing efficient nuclear disarmament verification measures. Furthermore, Slovenia considers nuclear disarmament verification an essential element of the progressive approach to nuclear disarmament. In connection with this, Slovenia sponsored the resolution on nuclear disarmament verification adopted by the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly. In May 2016, Slovenia also hosted the Twelfth Annual NATO Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation, in Ljubljana.

*Action 20*

27. Slovenia supports all efforts aimed at providing greater transparency with regard to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. To increase transparency under the Treaty, Slovenia is submitting the present national report.

*Action 21*

28. To increase transparency, Slovenia supports the efforts pertaining to standardized reporting by nuclear-weapon States.

*Action 22*

29. The University of Ljubljana has included disarmament and non-proliferation education in its curriculums, mostly within broader subjects, for instance the course on public international law at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana. Disarmament and non-proliferation are also included in the curriculum of the Faculty of Social Sciences, within its programme on defence and security studies.

30. In October 2015, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia arranged an interview with then-IAEA Director General, Yukiya Amano, for the main Slovenian daily *Delo*, as part of national awareness-raising activities about non-proliferation and disarmament, with particular focus on the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

31. In May 2016, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia also arranged an interview with then-Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive-Secretary, Dr. Lassina Zerbo, for the main Slovenian daily *Delo*, as well as for Slovenia's national broadcaster, RTV Slovenia, as part of the same activities, with particular focus on the role of Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the importance of its entry into force.

32. Slovenia has also supported disarmament and non-proliferation education with the aim of fostering gender parity. For instance, during the Slovenian chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2018, a Security Dialogue was organized, where greater visibility was given to the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security, which offers a training programme for young professionals on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area. The course is organized jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the OSCE young professionals programme, especially women from the wider OSCE region. The course contributes to creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes in the area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Slovenia has also provided a voluntary contribution to the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme.

33. In a wider sense, Slovenia supports disarmament and non-proliferation education and training in connection with post-conflict dangers. Special attention is given to mine and explosive ordnance risk education. Slovenia has been financially supporting mine risk education through ITF Enhancing Human Security.

## **B. Nuclear non-proliferation**

*Action 23*

34. In various international forums, as well as in a joint effort with other States members of the European Union, Slovenia has consistently called for the universalization of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

*Action 24*

35. Slovenia has in place a comprehensive safeguards agreement, complemented by an additional protocol which constitutes an effective verification standard. Additionally, there are also integrated safeguards and a State-level approach in force.

*Action 25*

36. Slovenia believes it is essential that all States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty respect their obligations, including those arising from article III of the Treaty.

*Action 26*

37. As repeatedly concluded by IAEA (and the European Commission/European Atomic Energy Community), all nuclear material in Slovenia is used for peaceful purposes. The comprehensive safeguards agreement, the additional protocol, broader conclusions and integrated safeguards guarantee the highest level of compliance with the obligations pertaining to non-proliferation under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

38. There is an urgent need to uphold the authority of the safeguards system. Slovenia has joined other States parties in addressing cases on non-compliance by some countries (Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Syrian Arab Republic) in various international forums, including in the IAEA General Conference and IAEA Board of Governors.

*Action 27*

39. Slovenia fully supports for the full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme as an important part of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture that is crucial for the security of the region. This is why Slovenia contributed financially in support of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

40. Slovenia has in various international forums reaffirmed its support for intensive diplomatic efforts to resume negotiations in view of the possible return of the United States of America to the Plan of Action and Iran's return to full implementation of the Plan of Action as soon as possible.

41. Slovenia has expressed deep concerns at Iran's decision to suspend, as of 23 February 2021, the implementation of transparency measures as envisaged in the Plan of Action, as well as the additional protocol, which has significantly reduced IAEA access and oversight regarding sites, activities and relevant information. Preserving the Agency's technical capability to maintain continuity of knowledge for its verification and monitoring of the implementation of the nuclear deal in Iran is of crucial importance. In this connection, Slovenia has urged Iran to implement all transparency measures, so that the Agency would be in a position to resume necessary verification and monitoring activities in relation to Plan of Action. Slovenia commends IAEA for its professional and impartial work and fully supports its efforts to continue implementing its long-term mission.

42. Slovenia has, on numerous occasions, expressed deep concern at Iran's continued actions inconsistent with the Plan of Action and with severe and, in the case of research and development activities, irreversible proliferation implications. Slovenia has, through bilateral and multilateral channels, urged Iran to reverse all activities inconsistent with the Plan of Action and return, without delay, to its full implementation, including of all transparency measures.

43. In view of the efforts towards achieving lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, Slovenia has continuously called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage constructively in meaningful dialogue with all relevant parties aimed at achieving a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation. It has also urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreement, including by signing and ratifying the additional protocol, and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Slovenia supports the Security Council's active engagement on the threat to international peace and security from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In respect of this, it also promotes the full and effective implementation of restrictive measures. Slovenia is also a co-sponsor of the note verbale of the United States of America submitted to the 1718 Committee,

which included a request for the Committee Secretary to take actions described in the paragraph 5 of the Security Council resolution 2397 (2017), because the aggregate amount of refined petroleum products sold, supplied or transferred to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2021 has breached the annual cap of 500,000 barrels.

*Action 28*

44. Together with the States members of the European Union, Slovenia has consistently advocated universal adherence to both the comprehensive safeguards agreement and an additional protocol, which will strengthen the non-proliferation regime and contribute to further enhancement of international peace and security.

*Action 29*

45. See the responses to actions 24, 25 and 27.

*Action 30*

46. It is coherent with the Slovenian vision that once the complete elimination of nuclear weapons has been achieved, a comprehensive system of safeguards and additional protocols shall be universally applied.

*Action 31*

47. Not applicable.

*Action 32*

48. Slovenia has repeatedly co-sponsored the resolution on strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of safeguards system adopted by the IAEA General Conferences.

49. In a joint effort with other States members of the European Union, Slovenia supported the efforts of IAEA in developing and implementing the State-level approach and its work in improving its internal processes for the implementation of the concept.

50. When IAEA circulated a letter on Member States' comments and suggestions on the State-level approach in 2018, Slovenia responded by highlighting the importance of the effectiveness of safeguards, taking into consideration a graded approach for specific users/holders of nuclear material (e.g. in the case of "small holders" and minor quantities of nuclear material).

*Action 33*

51. As one of 32 countries with a fully fledged civilian nuclear programme, Slovenia attaches great importance to the work of IAEA. In September 2021, Slovenia was elected for the fourth time by the IAEA General Conference to serve on the IAEA Board of Governors. During its two-year mandate, from 2021 to 2023, Slovenia intends to focus on issues of technical cooperation, safeguards and safety. Otherwise, Slovenia consistently pays all of its assessed contributions to the IAEA regular budget. As a strong supporter of the IAEA technical cooperation programme, it also pays its voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time.

*Action 34*

52. Nothing to report.

*Action 35*

53. Slovenia has in place a robust national system of export controls of products and technology, which can be used in the development of nuclear and radiological weapons. This system of export controls is primarily governed by the Act Regulating the Control of Exports of Dual-Use Items (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, Nos. 37/04 and 8/10) and the Decree on procedures for issuing authorizations and certificates and on the competence of the Commission for the Control of Exports of Dual-Use Items (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, Nos. 34/10 and 42/12). As a State member of the European Union, Slovenia applies the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009 (as amended), which sets up a Community regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items. The national legislation pertaining to export controls is in accordance with relevant international treaties and Security Council resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#).

54. Slovenia's national system of export controls is also in line with commitments made in export control regimes and initiatives, like the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee, the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative. In 2017, Slovenia chaired the General Working Group of Wassenaar Arrangement.

*Action 36*

55. Relevant national legislation is regularly updated in accordance with multilaterally negotiated and agreed guidelines and lists. Slovenia complies as a matter of course with all reporting obligations within the export control regimes. See also response to action 35.

*Action 37*

56. In assessing relevant export applications (nuclear transfers), Slovenian export control authorities take into account whether a safeguard agreement and additional protocol are in place for the recipient country. See also response to action 35.

*Action 38*

57. Slovenia supports the exchange of nuclear material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, every relevant export application is assessed in line with the applicable legislation and commitments. See also responses to actions 35 and 36.

*Action 39*

58. See the responses to actions 35 and 38.

*Action 40*

59. Slovenia is committed to the highest standards of security and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities. It is therefore a State party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, its amendment, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Slovenia is also a member of the Nuclear Security Contact Group and the European Nuclear Security Regulators Association. Slovenia also supports the Joint Statement on Mitigating Insider Threats (INFCIRC/908), which it endorsed in 2020.

60. In 2015, Slovenia organized a force-on-force exercise at the Krško nuclear power plant. In light of this experience, Slovenia was included in 2017 in the IAEA

Consultancy Meeting group for the development of an IAEA force-on-force exercise programme for security events at nuclear facilities.

61. The central national regulation pertaining to nuclear security and physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities is the Ionizing Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, Nos. 76/17, 26/19 and 172/21). This is complemented by numerous subsidiary regulations.

*Action 41*

62. Slovenia considers the IAEA recommendations on the physical protection of nuclear material and nuclear facilities (INFCIRC/225, now as Rev. 5) an important reference for IAEA member States. In addition, Slovenia has welcomed other IAEA documents from the Nuclear Security Series (Nos. 14, 15 and 20), which represent a solid reference for IAEA member States during global peer reviews such as the IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission.

*Action 42*

63. Slovenia is a State party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities and its amendment. Slovenia has advocated the importance of this Convention in various forums and encouraged all States that have not yet done so to adhere to the Convention and adopt the amendment as soon as possible. Slovenia is looking forward to the 2022 Review Conference, which will provide a platform for sharing experiences and national approaches amongst the Contracting Parties.

*Action 43*

64. Slovenia remains committed to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. Slovenia also supports the Joint Statement on Strengthening the Security of High Activity Sealed Radioactive Sources (INFCIRC/910), which it endorsed in 2018.

*Action 44*

65. Slovenia has participated in the efforts of IAEA to tackle the issue of illicit trafficking in nuclear material and radioactive material. Since the 1990s, it has participated in the Incident and Trafficking Database and different outreach activities. Slovenia also supports the Joint Statement on Countering Nuclear Smuggling (INFCIRC/918), which it endorsed in 2018.

66. Since 2002, Slovenia has significantly upgraded its detection capabilities to intercept possible unauthorized shipments of radioactive items. Different national stakeholders have been involved in a number of training courses, and regular meetings are held to address the national detection architecture. Recently, a national regulation was amended and extended to a number of duty holders on checking radioactivity in various shipments (Decree on checking the radioactivity of consignments that could contain orphan sources – *Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia*, No. 10/19).

67. Slovenia has also co-hosted a number of events, including in cooperation with the United States of America (Export Control and Related Border Security Programme). These events supported capacity-building, mainly for countries from the Western Balkans, with an emphasis on export controls, particularly in relation to materials equipment, and well as technologies that could assist in the development of weapons of mass destruction. See also the response to action 35.

68. Slovenia also offers assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests by States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience or resources for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

*Action 45*

69. Slovenia is a State party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. As the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2021, Slovenia organized a discussion on nuclear terrorism in the framework of the Council of the European Union's Working Party on International Aspects of Terrorism.

*Action 46*

70. Slovenia has in place a comprehensive national regulatory control of nuclear material, including a system of accounting and registry and a reporting mechanism. All holders of nuclear material report regularly to the European Commission (European Atomic Energy Community) and to the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration.

### **C. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy**

*Action 47*

71. Nuclear energy is an important component of the global supply of clean or low-carbon energy and has an important role in meeting future energy demand and mitigating climate change. Slovenia advocates for continued exchange of views and best practices in the field of safe nuclear energy utilisation. Slovenia is 1 of 30 countries with a fully fledged civilian nuclear programme. It has a well-established nuclear programme and a robust regulatory system. Nuclear power has been and remains an important pillar of Slovenian energy policy. Continued operation of Slovenia's nuclear power plant – the Krško nuclear power plant – is planned until 2043.

*Action 48*

72. See the responses to actions 35 and 38.

*Action 49*

73. Slovenia recognizes the right of States parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in accordance with article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It supports the responsible development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, under the best safety and security standards and effective safeguards conditions. In September 2017, Slovenia organized a panel discussion on global nuclear governance, which took place at the annual Bled Strategic Forum, a yearly high-level platform for the discussion of pressing regional and global issues. Among the panellists were also IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano and Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo.

74. It also attaches particular importance to the development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and its contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Slovenia appreciates the work of IAEA in areas such as human health, food and agriculture, water resources, environment, nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear energy.

75. Together with other States members of the European Union, Slovenia provides financial support to IAEA and IAEA Member States in the peaceful use of nuclear

energy and technology. In 2021, Slovenia also provided a voluntary contribution for the renovation of the IAEA Seibersdorf Laboratories (ReNuAL 2 Project).

*Action 50*

76. See the response to action 38.

*Action 51*

77. See the responses to actions 35 and 38.

*Action 52*

78. Slovenia is a longstanding and staunch supporter of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. It considers the programme as one of the core activities of IAEA, which provides invaluable support to Member States in harnessing nuclear power and safe application of nuclear/radiation techniques. It is important that the resources for the Technical Cooperation Fund remain sufficient, assured and predictable. Slovenia is a regular contributor to the Technical Cooperation Fund. It supports the implementation of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme by organizing workshops, training courses, meetings and similar events. In addition, Slovenian experts also take part in missions, workshops and courses to support technical cooperation activities in Member States.

79. In 2018, Slovenia, together with Morocco, assumed the role of co-facilitator for the Due Account Mechanism. The process resulted in a report, which included suggested concrete measures aimed at improving payment patterns to the Technical Cooperation Fund. All measures proposed by the co-facilitators were an integral part of the final decision taken by the IAEA Board of Governors on the issue in 2019.

*Action 53*

80. See the response to action 52.

*Action 54*

81. See the response to action 52.

*Action 55*

82. Slovenia has made a national voluntary contribution to the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund.

*Action 56*

83. The Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration is actively cooperating with other nuclear safety authorities to support capacity-building. The Administration maintains regular contact with the competent authorities of the neighbouring as well as of other European countries in accordance with relevant bilateral agreements. The exchange of information and discussion on the relevant issues in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety is ensured through regular bilateral meetings. The bilateral meetings with the competent authorities of Austria and Croatia are held every year and the bilateral meetings with Italy are held every three years. The quadrilateral meetings between the authorities of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia are also held annually. Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020 and 2021, it was agreed to postpone the bilateral and quadrilateral meetings, except the bilateral meetings with Austria, which took place virtually in 2020 and in person in 2021.

84. At the national level, Slovenian officials and experts regularly take part in training organized inside and outside of the IAEA framework.

*Action 57*

85. The central body for performing tasks in the field of nuclear safety, as laid down by national legislation and relevant international obligations, is the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration. It performs administrative, supervisory and development tasks in the fields of radiation and nuclear safety, protection of the environment from ionizing radiation, nuclear security, emergency preparedness and the State system for accountancy and control of nuclear material.

86. See also the responses to actions 24 and 40.

*Action 58*

87. Slovenia supported the establishment of the low enriched uranium bank by the IAEA.

*Action 59*

88. Slovenia is a State party to all of the Conventions mentioned under this Action.

*Action 60*

89. With regard to the sharing of best practices in the area of nuclear safety and security, the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration is engaged in national and international cooperation. The Administration is, for example, involved in European associations of regulators such as the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association and the European Nuclear Security Regulators Association. Slovenian experts have taken part in the work of different IAEA committees. The Administration also cooperates within the quadrilateral meetings with the Czech, Hungarian and Slovak nuclear regulators. Representatives from the nuclear industry (nuclear power plants) and carriers of nuclear material (or organizers of the shipments) cooperate with the regulators. Foreign operational experience and incidents are studied in the area of nuclear safety as well as in the security domain.

90. Slovenia has also promoted the sharing of best practices in the area of nuclear safety and security by organizing a security dialogue on nuclear security in the OSCE area in May 2018, during the Slovenian chairmanship of the Forum for Security Cooperation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The event was also attended by Mr. Juan Carlos Lentijo, Deputy Director General of IAEA and the Head of its Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, as well as by Dr. Andrej Stritar, Director of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration.

*Action 61*

91. In 1999, all stockpiles of highly enriched uranium owned by Slovenia were transported to the United States under strict safety and security precautions. The current quantity of highly enriched uranium owned by Slovenia is so small that the Nuclear Threat Initiative's Nuclear Security Index lists Slovenia as a country without weapons-usable nuclear materials.

*Action 62*

92. Transport of radioactive materials in Slovenia is consistent with relevant international standards of safety, security and environmental protection. Slovenia's transport regulations are in line with international regulations pertaining to the transport of dangerous goods and the Specific Safety Requirements of the IAEA

Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (No. SSR-6, Rev.1). National stakeholders cooperate regularly in this regard and no transport-related accidents that would involve nuclear or radioactive material have occurred in Slovenia. Regional regulators' cooperation has been upheld also through the European Association of Competent Authorities for the transport of radioactive materials.

*Action 63*

93. Slovenia is a State party to the Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy as amended by the Additional Protocol of 1964 and by the Protocol of 1982. Slovenia also ratified Protocol of 12 February 2004, which is not yet in force.

*Action 64*

94. Slovenia would consider any armed attack or threat of attack against nuclear installations devoted to peaceful purposes a gross violation of international law and its principles.

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