

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov  
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United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Reinforcing the global nuclear security  
architecture: Universalization of the  
International Convention for the Suppression  
of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**

**03 August 2022**

**ECOSOC Chamber, UN Secretariat**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this high-level side event on reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture by universalizing the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and encouraging its implementation by States Parties.

In this event, the United Nations and other international organizations will discuss their efforts in countering nuclear terrorism while States Parties will be able to hig

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## Universalization and Effective Implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

This project is a testament to the commitment of the European Union, co- to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism and promote nuclear security. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the European Union as both our donor and partner in this endeavor, and specifically to Ambassador Marjolijn van Deelen, the European Union Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament, for co-chairing event.

Several United Nations

meetings for the 2020 Review Conference reiterated their concerns regarding the threat of terrorism and the importance of ratifying and implementing the Convention.

This meeting seeks to promote these common efforts and approaches towards reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture and the universalization and implementation of the Convention.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The risk of terrorists gaining access to nuclear and radiological materials poses a significant threat to humanity and international peace and security.

In 2014, it was reported that [redacted] had seized 40 kilos of low enriched uranium from scientific institutions at the Mosul University in Iraq. This demonstrates that the prospect of such materials falling into the hands of non-state actors, including terrorists, is all-too-real.

In June 2022, Tajikistan reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency that during a special operation, 133 pieces of nuclear material] weighing 607 grams were seized from several of its citizens, who had planned to sell the materials either within the country or to buyers in Afghanistan.

To address such threats, universal adherence to this key legal instrument remains an essential goal. It facilitates international cooperation, including the exchange of information on nuclear security threats, prosecution and extradition of suspects.

[redacted] and that it will reinforce Member States' interest to consider ratification of this important Convention.

Both [redacted] United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime remain ready to support the Member

States within the framework of the ICSANT project. Through effective