

562nd Plenary Meeting

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**DECISION No. 683
COUNTERING THE THREAT OF RADIOACTIVE SOURCES**

The Permanent Council,

Noting that radioactive sources are in use throughout the world for a wide variety of beneficial purposes,

Aware that the use of these radioactive sources involves risks due to potential radiation exposure,

Recognizing the need to protect individuals, society and the environment from the harmful effects of possible accidents and malicious acts involving radioactive sources,

Recognizing the need for effective and continuous regulatory control, in particular to reduce the vulnerability of radioactive sources during transfers within and between the participating States,

Recalling the obligations which the participating States have under international law, and political commitments under pertinent IAEA resolutions,

Noting the importance of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (IAEA/CODEOC/2004) and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources supplementary to it (GC(48)/13), while recognizing that they are not legally binding,

Noting that 52 OSCE participating States are members of the IAEA, 40 of them have made political commitments with respect to the Code of Conduct and 28 have made clear their intention to work towards effective controls over the import and export of radioactive sources, consistent with the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, by 31 December 2005,

Recalling the participating States' commitments under the OSCE Charter on Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century,

Decides that:

OSCE participating States should fully support and endorse the IAEA's efforts to enhance the safety and security of high-risk radioactive sources;

In order to do so, participating States should strengthen co-operation among themselves and with the IAEA;

To this end, the OSCE participating States that have not already done so should write to the IAEA Director General with respect to the Code of Conduct and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources, as envisaged by IAEA General Conference Resolutions GC(47)/RES/7 and GC(48)/RES/10;

The OSCE participating States should work towards following the guidance contained in the Code of Conduct for the development and harmonization of policies, laws and regulations on the safety and security of radioactive sources. They should also work towards acting in accordance with the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources supplementary to the Code of Conduct on a harmonized basis.