

ENGLISH only

Joint Statement by Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom on the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials

As delivered by U.S. Political Counselor Bruce Connuck
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 23, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have the honor to speak again on behalf of Canada, France, the United States and the United Kingdom and to refer to our joint statement at the May 19 Permanent Council regarding the upcoming conference to consider and adopt amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM).

The conference takes place the week of July 4th here in Vienna and will be hosted by the IAEA. As we noted May 19, a two-thirds majority of all States Parties will be required in order to adopt the amendments.

To date, the IAEA has received confirmation of attendance from only 71 States Parties, still short of the minimum needed to adopt the amendments. Yesterday we received an urgent informal request from a colleague at IAEA to once again urge OSCE participating States to register for the upcoming meeting.

As it happens, there are 12 OSCE participating States among those States Parties that have not yet said whether they will send a representative to the conference.

If those among us who are undecided can confirm their participation, OSCE participating States will help ensure that the Convention can be amended and strengthened, as so many countries have recognized that it should be.

Since not all of us here represent our countries at the IAEA, and thus might not be aware whether our capitals have responded or how they might be planning to respond, we will be notifying privately those participating States whose attendance is not yet confirmed.

Our hope is that most of these countries plan to participate but have not yet conveyed this intention to the IAEA; what our colleagues there are telling us is that they need our responses as soon as possible!

Before closing, we wish to draw participating States' attention to the fact that Heads of Delegation to the conference will require credentials in advance which are separate from their accreditation to the IAEA. Those credentials must be issued by the Head of State or Government, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to confirm the Head of Delegation's authority to make decisions regarding amendments to the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.