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**Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review  
Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the  
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

7 May 2007

Original: English

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**First session**

Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2007

**Perspectives on issues related to nuclear terrorism****Working paper submitted by Australia**

1. The issue of nuclear terrorism has implications for many objectives of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The threat of nuclear terrorism is not new, but it deserves greater attention now than it has traditionally received. The globalization of terrorism has added urgency to the task of ensuring terrorists never obtain a nuclear terrorism capability.
2. The consequences of an act of nuclear terrorism would impact on the interests of all States. As well as entailing a potentially terrible human cost, such an act could severely disrupt the trade, investment and movement of people essential to the economic development of all States.
3. The international framework in this area is being strengthened. Australia has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and is actively working towards ratification. Australia urges all NPT parties to join this important additional defence against nuclear terrorism.
4. Australia was a founding partner of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, a grouping of nations cooperating to enhance global capacity against nuclear terrorism that was established in July 2006. As a contribution to the workplan of the Global Initiative, Australia will host the Asia-Pacific seminar on Combating Nuclear Terrorism in Sydney from 16 to 18 May 2007. The seminar will inform regional countries about the Global Initiative with a view to encouraging their membership, as well as facilitating the exchange of information and experience relating to nuclear counter-terrorism.
5. Australia welcomes and strongly supports new initiatives that will help guard against the threat of nuclear terrorism. The international community needs also to strengthen the first line of defence provided by the NPT-based nuclear non-proliferation regime.
6. Strengthening the non-proliferation regime will raise the barriers to misuse of sensitive materials and technology by both State and non-State actors. Australia has outlined priority actions in other statements, including global application of the Additional Protocol, enhanced physical protection of nuclear materials and



facilities — particularly by States acceding to the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material — and effective domestic controls on sensitive materials and technologies, including export controls.

7. The international community received an alarming insight into the danger of nuclear black markets with exposure of the A. Q. Khan nuclear proliferation network in 2004. That some of Khan's clients were States of proliferation concern was deeply troubling. But it is easy to see how terrorists could exploit such networks to acquire the means to pursue nuclear weapons.

8. Australia welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and its follow-up resolution 1673 (2006) as timely and appropriate responses to the threats of non-state actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction and of weapons of mass destruction proliferation generally. Full implementation by all Member States of these ground-breaking resolutions remains central to efforts to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism.

9. Australia would like to record its appreciation for the strong contribution of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to international efforts to respond to the risk of nuclear terrorism, including through assistance to Member States in strengthening their regulatory controls. Australia encourages all States to take full advantage of the IAEA's services.

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