Guillermo Maltes

Czech Republic (Czechia)

American Nicaraguan School

International Atomic Energy Agency

Since the 2014 National Security Summit, Czech Republic (Czechia) has strengthened nuclear security implementation and has made many efforts to build global nuclear security. The country has developed systems to track, account and control high nuclear activities. In spite of these efforts to reduce the nuclear energy, which can be used as a source of terrorism, Czechia uses nuclear energy as an alternative source of energy. 1 The delegation of Czechia promotes the use of nuclear energy as an alternative energy source but wants to reduce and, if possible, eliminate the use of it for weapons or causes of harm to innocent people. For this reason, Czechia has partnered with countries like the United States, a leader in many global issues, in an effort to prevent nuclear smuggling. 2

The Czech Republic is a signatory of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and it also follows the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources. Also, the country has been working on passing the Atomic Act of 2014 and 2015, which is currently awaiting approval from the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, a government body that is responsible for the passing of laws that will benefit the country. They also have been working to improve the regulation of their physical protection for nuclear material and facilities. 3

Czechia is a world leader in nuclear security. For example, the country was one of the first to completely remove highly enriched uranium, a necessary fuel for nuclear weapons that is frequently misused by states or terrorists, from its territory and is available to guide other countries to follow their example. It is considered one of the top ten countries globally for maintaining the security of nuclear materials. 4 Czech Republic endorses the unification of countries as a means to reduce the terrorist attacks. Although it has never been attacked, because it is a leader in the anti-terrorism effort, the country is acutely aware that it may be a future target. Czechia has undertaken various policies to eliminate terrorism, as such: respect of democratic principles and human rights, cooperation of various institutions, verification in anti-terrorist organizations or movements, increase in overall education, active approach to potential threats, provision of adequate information to the public, maximum assistance and protection to those who give information of possible terrorist attacks and many others. 5

The Czech Republic is a firm believer of working alongside as many countries as possible, so that all of the countries can start to reduce the likelihood of terrorists getting these materials and safely dispose of hazardous materials. The overall goal is to reduce the number of people dying because of the misuse of nuclear energy or nuclear attacks against them.

Endnotes

1  Nuclear Power in Czech Republic. (2016, November). Retrieved November 07, 2016, from http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-a-f/czech-republic.aspx

2  U.S. and the Czech Republic Increase Cooperation to Prevent Nuclear Smuggling. (2016). Retrieved November 07, 2016, from https://nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/czechcooperation090712

3  National Progress Report: Czech Republic. (2016, March 31). Retrieved November 07, 2016, from http://www.nss2016.org/document-center-docs/2016/3/31/national-progress-report-czech-republic

4  Prime Minister: The Czech Republic is a world leader in nuclear security. (2016, April 1). Retrieved November 07, 2016, from https://www.vlada.cz/en/media-centrum/aktualne/prime-minister-sobotka-the-czech-republic-is-a-world-leader-in-nuclear-security-142037/

5 Strategy of the Czech Republic for the Fight Against Nuclear Terrorism. Retrieved from November 07, 2016, from NAP-2013-EN PDF Document.