

NEXT generation nuclear security

MEETING the GLOBAL CHALLENGE

OVERVIEW



President Obama giving his official remarks after the Nuclear Security Summit

U.S. President Barack Obama announced in July 2009 that he would host a global nuclear security summit in April 2010 to “develop steps that can be taken together to secure vulnerable materials, combat nuclear smuggling and deter, detect, and disrupt attempts at nuclear terrorism.” In order to provide analysis, education, and policy recommendations that highlight the urgency of the nuclear security agenda, the [Fissile Materials Working Group \(FMWG\)](#) organized a summit of experts and a series of supporting events to engage a primarily nongovernmental, international expert audience.

This nongovernmental summit, [Next Generation Nuclear Security: Meeting the Global Challenge](#), held on April 12, 2010, featured two keynote addresses, four expert panel discussions, and a networking reception.

The summit created a forum for international experts to interact and collaborate on the nuclear security agenda, particularly by providing them with an opportunity to advance policy proposals that go beyond those endorsed at the governmental summit. Those interactions helped establish the foundation for a global network to press for the implementation of nuclear security improvements long after the summit concludes and the spotlight on these issues fades.

President Obama sent a [letter](#) in support of the *Next Generation Nuclear Security* summit. “As we work to secure all nuclear materials from theft and diversion, we will need your expertise,” Obama wrote. “Your insights will make a crucial difference in global efforts to educate others about the threat nuclear weapons pose and our response to that threat; in securing all nuclear materials through additional domestic and international measures; and in stopping cross-border trafficking in illicit materials and technology.”

There were participants from 38 countries, the European Union (EU) and Caribbean Community, and the United Nations and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in attendance. They represented dozens of U.S. and foreign nongovernmental organizations, embassies, foundations, national laboratories, governments, the nuclear industry, the U.S. Congress, and intergovernmental organizations. This gathering of 220 U.S. and international participants laid the groundwork for an integrated, global approach for providing support to governments and other stakeholders working to achieve the goal of securing



Participants gather at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center for the Next Generation Nuclear Security event

all vulnerable nuclear materials around the world in four years. Additionally, a strategy session the following morning provided a forum for the [FMWG](#) and its international colleagues to discuss next steps for advancing the nuclear security agenda.

Two related events engaged domestic and international media on the importance of preventing nuclear terrorism and improving nuclear material security. A [press conference](#) held the week before the summit provided background on fissile material security issues for journalists. A second [press conference](#) held immediately after the official Nuclear Security Summit allowed the FMWG to provide immediate reactions to the communiqué, work plan, and national commitments. The FMWG was mentioned and/or [quoted in the media](#) more than 50 times in the 48 hours surrounding the official Nuclear Security Summit. There were nearly the same number of mentions/quotes in the media in the weeks leading up to the Summit, and outlets included top newspapers (e.g., *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, Bloomberg, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*), TV (e.g., CNN, CSPAN, Al-Jazeera, ARD), and radio (e.g., BBC, NPR). Journalists representing 25 media organizations attended the nongovernmental summit as well.

The *Next Generation Nuclear Security* summit and related events also allowed the FMWG to reach out to the American public and policymakers. Prior to the April 12 event, members of the FMWG briefed Congressional staff on the [FY11 budget](#) and policy options to support the four year goal. U.S. Senators Jack Reed and Robert P. Casey, Jr. joined the concluding reception on April 12 to show their support for the goals of the *Next Generation Nuclear Security* summit, and U.S. Representative Adam Schiff sent a letter of support that was read at the reception. More than 500 people watched the *Next Generation Nuclear Security* summit via live [webcast](#), with an average viewing time of over 2 hours.

EVENT SUMMARY

[Morning Keynote: “The Nuclear Terrorism Threat”](#) *A review of the global threat of nuclear terrorism and why every state has a stake in its prevention.*



Robert Gallucci

[Robert Gallucci](#), President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, gave the morning keynote address on the threat of nuclear terrorism. Gallucci emphasized the real, imminent possibility that terrorists could acquire fissile material and detonate an improvised nuclear device. He stressed that any nation that has suffered a conventional terrorist attack is a potential target for a nuclear terrorist attack. The threat extends far beyond the United States and Western Europe.

Gallucci discussed potential strategies for preventing a nuclear terrorist attack. The first is a form of deterrence: making nuclear-capable states aware that there will be consequences if their fissile material is used in a terrorist attack. Unfortunately, nuclear forensic science is not currently at a stage of development where the source of fissile material can be reliably identified. Gallucci's second strategy requires denying nuclear weapons-armed adversaries access to our territory. But here again, this strategy is not foolproof because national borders are permeable.

Therefore, Gallucci argues, we must deny terrorists access to the fissile materials needed for a bomb. Key steps to denying access include ending the production of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium, securing all existing stockpiles to a “gold standard,” and eliminating existing stockpiles through downblending and other methods that make it irreversibly unusable in weapons.

Gallucci concluded with observations about the international community’s approach to these issues. The world should not limit its concerns about North Korea or Iran to their acquisition of nuclear weapons. Their potential to transfer fissile material to terrorists should be of equal concern. Sharing operational intelligence between governments is vital to thwarting terrorist plots. Finally, people and governments will be more inclined to act if they are persuaded that the threat is real.

“Regional Progress and Challenges to Securing Vulnerable Nuclear Materials in Four Years” *A regional overview of the practical steps, technical tools, and political considerations impacting the objective of securing all vulnerable nuclear material.*

This panel discussion, moderated by Kevin O’Shea of the Embassy of Canada to the United States, emphasized international cooperation in securing nuclear material. [Irma Arguello](#), President of the Nonproliferation for Global Security Foundation in Argentina, discussed how important regional cooperation is in Latin America for nuclear security, which has a unique regional approach that includes leadership by the nuclear industry. [Matthew Bunn](#), Associate Professor of Public Policy and Co-Principal Investigator for the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University, emphasized that if security is not improving, it is declining. He outlined specific steps for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and EU



(L to R) Kevin O’Shea, Irma Arguello, Matthew Bunn, Li Hong, Pervez Hoodbhoy, and Gennady Pshakin

states to secure their fissile materials. Secretary General of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association [Li Hong](#) focused on developing a security culture that includes nongovernmental organizations, industry, and government working together in East Asia, especially as countries expand their nuclear power industries. Finally, [Gennady Pshakin](#), Head of the Analytical Center for Nonproliferation at the Institute for Physics and Power Engineering in Russia, discussed how much has been done to secure vulnerable fissile materials in Russia and the former Soviet Union, but also indicated how much more still needs to be done to ensure the sustainability of technology, training, and equipment currently in place.

“Rethinking Multilateral Approaches to Fissile Material Security” *A discussion of how existing tools should be expanded and new initiatives developed to strengthen the global fissile material security structure and enhance international cooperation.*

Kicking off the panel, Marcos Castrioto de Azambuja, Vice President of Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais in Brazil, remarked that there is great momentum in 2010 to break the Cold War paralysis on nuclear weapons issues, but success will require substantial political will. The Executive Director of the World Institute for Nuclear Security in Austria, [Roger Howsley](#), outlined how his organization is working with the nuclear energy industry to create an international forum to share best practices and improve nuclear security. [Anita Nilsson](#), Director of the Office of Nuclear Security at the IAEA, emphasized how small steps could be taken to improve the big picture,



(L to R) Marcos Castrioto de Azambuja, Roger Howsley, Anita Nilsson, and R. Rajaraman

especially through the IAEA. Emeritus Professor of Physics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University in India [R. Rajaraman](#) focused on the work of the International Panel on Fissile Materials, which serves as one model for international cooperation on complex fissile material issues. This panel discussion, moderated by FMWG Steering Committee Member and Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton Elizabeth Turpen, also delved into how international organizations, particularly the IAEA, need to adapt to a changing world.

[Keynote Lunch: “The Necessity and Benefits of Improved Fissile Material Security”](#) *A review of the broader transparency, nonproliferation, and accountability benefits to be gained from improved fissile material security.*

In his lunchtime keynote address, [Gareth Evans](#), Co-Chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, emphasized that nuclear material security is the foundational element of the three pillars – nonproliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use of nuclear technology – that guide today’s nuclear regime. Evans cited seven benchmark events or issues in 2010 that make it a watershed year: Nuclear Security Summit, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ratification, Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty negotiations, new Strategy Arms Reduction Treaty ratification, new U.S. Nuclear Posture Review, and Iranian nuclear program negotiations.

Evans previewed elements likely to be included in the official Nuclear Security Summit’s final documents, such as a consensus statement on the global threat of nuclear terrorism. He also discussed follow-up issues and activities that will be necessary for ensuring that substantive security improvements result from the official summit, including nuclear security engagement with countries that were not participants.

Further, Evans pointed to three areas that nuclear security experts and advocates should focus their attention on in the coming years. First, pressuring governments to be mindful of the risks associated with the widespread use of plutonium in mixed-oxides (MOX) fuel as well as the need to enact robust security at all locations where plutonium is stored, even small laboratories. Second, Evans suggested supporting the development of “proliferation resistant” technologies at the Generation IV International Forum. Finally, because nuclear security is too important to be left to national governments unaided, steps should be taken to help them overcome their reluctance to allowing outside scrutiny of their nuclear security mechanisms and encourage the sharing of best practices to ensure that the highest standards of security are achieved.



Gareth Evans

“Rationale and Challenges of Eliminating the Civil Use of HEU” *An examination of the security benefits of phasing out HEU from the civil sector and challenges that must be overcome to make its elimination viable.*



(L to R) Mark Fitzpatrick, Rob Adam, Thomas Cochran, and Ole Reistad

This panel, moderated by [Mark Fitzpatrick](#) of the International Institute for Strategic Studies focused on the elimination of highly-enriched uranium, and began with remarks from [Ole Reistad](#), Research Scientist at the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority. He suggested that the IAEA should have a mandate to minimize the use of HEU and support minimization with alternative technologies. CEO of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA) [Rob Adam](#) presented a commercially-sustainable example of NECSA’s experience converting from HEU to LEU for medical isotope production. The process requires good

management, strategy, and cooperation between technical and political personnel, according to Adam. [Thomas Cochran](#), Senior Scientist in the Nuclear Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, identified HEU as the easiest material to use in a terrorist nuclear weapon due to it being more plentiful, less secure, harder to detect, more dispersed than plutonium, and easier to fabricate into a crude nuclear explosive device.

“Defining a “Next Generation Nuclear Security Initiative: Where Do We Go from Here?”

An exploration of the new mindsets, partnerships, and tools needed to advance nuclear security in a globalized world.

The final panel of the day, moderated by Nonresident Senior Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [Ariel Levite](#), focused on the need for a new fissile material security framework. [O’Neil Hamilton](#), the CARICOM Coordinator for UNSCR 1540, called for political leaders to articulate the dangers posed by vulnerable fissile material in public discourse and make creating strategies for addressing the threat a higher priority. He also outlined international cooperative efforts with trade control, licensing, and technical assistance. French international nuclear affairs and nonproliferation consultant [Caroline Jorant](#) outlined a framework that places a strong emphasis on international cooperation and public-private partnerships, with the political and technological culture shift necessary to create a next generation regime. FMWG Co-Chair and President of the Partnership for Global Security [Kenneth Luongo](#) summarized the components needed for a comprehensive, flexible, legitimate, and globally-focused next generation nuclear material security package.



(L to R) Ariel Levite, O’Neil Hamilton, Caroline Jorant, and Co-Chair of FMWG Kenneth Luongo

ABOUT THE FISSILE MATERIALS WORKING GROUP

Within weeks of President Obama’s April 2009 speech in Prague outlining his nuclear security objectives, approximately 20 top U.S. nuclear policy experts and nongovernmental organizations banded together to ensure that the President’s policy priority of preventing nuclear terrorism is met.

Coalescing into a formal Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG) and growing in size to over 40 experts and organizational representatives, the coalition focused on the President's key objective of securing all vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide in four years. In September 2009, the group produced a set of five consensus policy recommendations on nuclear material security and sent them by letter to President Obama. These recommendations were also shared with high-level Administration officials at an off-the-record meeting where they were well received.

A second objective of the FMWG was to host a nongovernmental summit, [*Next Generation Nuclear Security: Meeting the Global Challenge*](#), on April 12, 2010. This was an opportunity to bolster



Participants in a strategy session meet at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

international NGOs and build a global network in support for nuclear security improvements. In an April 8, 2010, letter to the FMWG, President Obama praised the *Next Generation Nuclear Security* summit participants' "critical support" in educating the public and providing expertise in the effort to secure vulnerable fissile materials.

On April 13, 2010, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted a breakfast strategy session for the FMWG and their international NGO colleagues to discuss next steps. Though the FMWG has yet to finalize its future plans, several possible next steps include:

- **Continued outreach to the U.S. Congress.** The FY 2011 budget request includes an additional \$320 million to support the four year effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials around the world. The FMWG wants to see this funding approved by Congress. Additionally, continued education of Congressional members and staff on nuclear security issues is crucial as we work to achieve the four year goal.
- **Continued outreach to and coordination with the U.S. Administration.** As the Sherpas and Sous-Sherpas meet to discuss implementation of the Nuclear Security Summit communiqué and action plan and prepare for the 2012 summit in the Republic of Korea, the FMWG will seek to track progress on country commitments and make outside nuclear experts available for consultation, as appropriate.
- **Create and sustain an international NGO network.** The FMWG will continue its activities to develop a group of active individuals and organizations that are committed to securing all vulnerable materials in four years.
- **Bolstering and continuing the coalition.** The FMWG will continue to meet on a monthly basis and work to develop concrete benchmarks for the official action plan and develop proposals for the 2012 summit.
- **Plan and hold a series of regional and other follow-up meetings.** The FMWG will seek to partner with NGOs, as well as governments and the nuclear industry, for these regional meetings.

- **Seek to offer opportunities for collaboration amongst and between the international NGOs and the FMWG** (e.g., developing a “gold standard” for nuclear safety, developing curricula for professionals and students).

The FMWG is co-chaired by Kenneth Luongo, President of the Partnership for Global Security, and Alexandra Toma, Program Director at the Connect U.S. Fund. They are supported by two staff members – Michelle Marchesano (Partnership for Global Security) and Joanna Hecht (Connect U.S. Fund) – as well as a dedicated and hard-working Steering Committee composed of leaders in this area. The Steering Committee includes the following people: Matthew Bunn, Harvard University; Jennifer Smyser, The Stanley Foundation; Elizabeth Turpen, Booz Allen Hamilton; Paul Walker, Global Green USA; and Jim Walsh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Media support is provided by Sean Harder (Stanley Foundation), Nathan Britton (ReThink Media), and Kelsey Hartigan (National Security Network).



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MEETING the GLOBAL CHALLENGE

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