

## MAJOR PROGRESS FROM NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

Focusing the attention of presidents and prime ministers around the world on securing nuclear materials, the nuclear security summit was a major step toward locking down nuclear stockpiles around the world and keeping them out of terrorist hands. The assembled leaders identified nuclear terrorism as a major threat to global security and endorsed President Obama's goal of securing all vulnerable nuclear material worldwide within four years. Individual countries made important commitments to take steps to improve nuclear security, including:

- Ukraine announced it would eliminate all its highly enriched uranium (HEU) by the end of 2012;
- Canada announced that it would send a large stock of HEU back to the United States;
- Mexico announced that it would convert its research reactor and eliminate the last HEU on its soil;
- All HEU was removed from Chile just before the summit occurred;
- Britain said that it would host an international peer review led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of nuclear security at its Sellafield site, where over 100 tons of plutonium is stored — by far the most important and sensitive facility where such a review has ever been carried out, and a major step toward making such international reviews a normal part of doing business in the nuclear field, as international safety reviews are;
- France also announced that it would host an IAEA-led peer review

To follow up on the commitments made, the leaders agreed to hold another summit in South Korea in 2012, and the “sherpas” who help the leaders prepare for the summit plan to meet regularly between now and then.

Mikheil Saakashvili, the President of Georgia, revealed that there had been another seizure of stolen HEU in Georgia in March, and that there had been eight seizures of enriched uranium in Georgia over the past ten years (though he did not reveal how many of those were highly enriched).

The key now is to hit the ground running in turning the summit words into real

action on the ground in the weeks and months to come. For an assessment of global nuclear security and a set of recommendations to achieve effective security for all nuclear stockpiles in four years, see the new report, [\*Securing the Bomb 2010: Securing All Nuclear Materials in Four Years\*](#).

Key documents from the nuclear security summit are available here: [Summit Key Documents](#).

A press briefing on the communiqué, work plan, and country commitments is available here: [Nuclear Security Summit Press Briefing](#)

President Obama's post-summit press conference is available here: [Press Conference by the President at the Nuclear Security Summit](#).

A major non-government summit on "Next Generation Nuclear Security" was held the day before the nuclear security summit. Copies of the presentations and other information on the event are available here: <http://fmwg.presstools.org/node/35265>