

10-2023

Foreword

Follow this and additional works at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/ijns>

Recommended Citation

(2023) "Foreword," *International Journal of Nuclear Security*. Vol. 8: No. 2, Article 7.

<https://doi.org/10.7290/ijns998721>

Available at: <https://trace.tennessee.edu/ijns/vol8/iss2/7>

This article is brought to you freely and openly by Volunteer, Open-access, Library-hosted Journals (VOL Journals), published in partnership with The University of Tennessee (UT) University Libraries. This article has been accepted for inclusion in *International Journal of Nuclear Security* by an authorized editor. For more information, please visit <https://trace.tennessee.edu/ijns>.

Foreword

Christine Bent

Assistant Deputy Administrator for Global Material Security
National Nuclear Security Administration

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA's) Office of International Nuclear Security (INS) envisions a world in which effective nuclear security prevents nuclear theft, sabotage, and terrorism. INS leads US and international efforts to prevent the theft and sabotage of nuclear materials and facilities worldwide.

Nuclear security is more than just technical measures: the most important part of the security system is people. People thrive in organizations where they feel included and valued. Therefore, promoting a diverse and inclusive nuclear security workforce will lead to greater effectiveness in meeting today's nuclear security challenges and produce more resilience and sustainability in the nuclear security field.

Gender equality is a global issue. We are heartened to see an increased focus on diversity and gender equality in the nuclear security field. The 2022 Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material reaffirmed the importance of diversity and inclusivity, including gender equality, within nuclear security workforces. The 2020 Ministerial Declaration from the International Conference on Nuclear Security encouraged member states to establish an inclusive workforce within their national security regimes. The 2022 International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference Eleventh Plenary Committee required the Secretariat to continue paying due regard to promoting workforce diversity and to continue to encourage member states to establish inclusive workforces in their domestic regimes. These entreaties at the international level are critical to encourage states to offer more opportunities to women and diverse people and increase the effectiveness of our collective security.

INS is proud to heed these calls and established the Nuclear Security Women (NSW) initiative in 2020 to focus on women, men, and gender-diverse individuals who seek to

attain gender equality in the nuclear security field. We are delighted to support this special issue of the *International Journal of Nuclear Security* (IJNS). It serves to increase visibility of women in the field, showcase their research, and raise awareness about gender equality challenges in the field. It also represents an important collaboration with IJNS, and we are pleased to support their second-ever special issue dedicated to amplifying women's voices in nuclear security.