Mr Chairman, the events of 11 September demonstrate the lengths to which terrorists are prepared to go to further their objectives. These events therefore underline the need to ensure that terrorists do not gain access to weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, I can reassure this meeting that the UK’s nuclear weapons are protected to the highest security standards, as indeed are our civil nuclear facilities.

National and IAEA roles

The primary responsibility for the security and safety of nuclear and radioactive materials lies with member states, as does the responsibility for responding to the threat of terrorism. But the IAEA can play a vital role in helping member States to counter the threat of nuclear terrorism.

In particular, the Agency can take a pro-active approach in encouraging Member States to accede to international instruments relevant to the struggle against terrorism and in providing tailored guidance on the necessary legal/regulatory steps.
In addition, the Agency has a valuable role to play in strengthening the relevant international instruments. In this context, we welcome the progress made by the Agency in taking forward proposals to draft a well-defined amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, in line with the May 2001 Report of the Expert Group. The UK will continue to play a full role in the group of Legal and Technical Experts who are carrying out this work.

**IAEA proposals re: nuclear terrorism**

Mr Chairman, the UK welcomes the actions the IAEA has taken to respond to the increased threat of nuclear terrorism. We strongly support the Action Plan on the Protection Against Nuclear Terrorism which was put to the IAEA’s Board of Governors in March 2002. It is clear that additional funds will be required if, as we believe, the Agency is to undertake the important tasks proposed in its Action Plan whilst preserving existing programmes. The threat of nuclear terrorism affects all member states. It is therefore right that all those who are able to make a contribution should do so. We have already made a voluntary contribution of £250,000 to the IAEA’s new counter terrorism fund. We hope that others will follow our lead and provide the Agency with the financial and other support it requires. The world looks to us to act decisively in countering the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The UK has long supported Agency activity aimed at ensuring that all States have effective physical protection systems to counter their individual Design Basis Threat, as well as State Systems of Accountancy and Control and regulatory infrastructures for the
control of radiation sources. We have also provided further support in the form of extra-
budgetary contributions, expertise and as a donor State in bilateral support programmes.

We have examined carefully the Agency’s proposals for activities to address the threats of the acquisition of nuclear and other radioactive material and of violent acts against nuclear facilities. We are convinced that the activities proposed in the Action Plan will make an important contribution to reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism.

In particular, we welcome the proposals in the Action Plan to fund missions of the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) and follow up to provide Member States with advice on their legal and regulatory infrastructure. We also support the preparation of guidance and materials aimed at helping Member States to improve their legal and regulatory structures, including help which will enable them to ratify and implement the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM).

The UK has long supported training activities carried out by the IAEA. We therefore support the Agency’s plan to provide nuclear security related training including Design Basis Threat (DBT) workshops for Member States.

We also welcome the proposals to assist Member States in the development of good State Systems for Accountancy and Control (SSACs) to improve nuclear materials accountancy.
And finally, we also support the provision of advice to Member States on locating and securing orphan sources as well as the strengthening the radiological emergency response capability of Member States through the provision of training, technical support and guidance material.

**Conclusion**

Mr Chairman, to conclude, we look forward to continuing to work productively with the Secretariat and other Member States to develop the work programme in order to maximise the contribution the Agency makes to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism throughout the world. We congratulate the Agency on its prompt actions and proposals in this important area. In addition to our strong support for the Agency, we will also continue our bilateral assistance programmes, including the significant funding announced in July 2000 towards increasing the safety and security of nuclear materials in the FSU and the contribution to the US/Russia plutonium disposition programme.

Thank you.

End/