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Today's threat and tomorrow's reaction

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ABSTRACT

The events of September 11 have only confirmed our past nightmares and warnings to industries, agencies, and governments. The threat of even more significant catastrophic attacks, using nuclear materials, was just as real ten years ago, as it is today. In many cases, our vulnerability remains the same as years ago. There is a dire need for all organizations to agree upon threats and vulnerabilities, and to implement appropriate protections, for nuclear materials or other "means" to achieve an event of mass destruction.

All appropriate organizations (industries, agencies, and governments) should be able to define, assess, and recognize international threats and vulnerabilities in the same manner. In complimentary fashion, the organizations should be able to implement safeguards against this consistent generic threat. On an international scale the same threats, and most vulnerabilities, pose high risks to all of these organizations and societies. Indeed, in today's world, the vulnerabilities of one nation may clearly pose great risk to another nation.

Once threats and vulnerabilities are consistently recognized, we can begin to approach their mitigation in a more "universal" fashion by the application of internationally recognized and accepted security measures. The path to recognition of these security measures will require agreement on many diverse issues. However, once there is general agreement, we can then proceed to the acquisition of diverse national and international resources with which to implement the security measures "universally" to eliminate "weak-links" in the chain of nuclear materials, on a truly international scale.

I would like to discuss:

- ✧ Developing a internationally acceptable "generic" statement of threat, vulnerability assessment process, and security measures ✓ 7;
- ✧ Proposing this International Statement of Threat, vulnerability assessment process, and appropriate security measures to organizations (industries, agencies, and governments) ✓ 7;
- ✧ The utilization of the International Statement of Threat by states, organizations, and sites in developing their own Statement of Threat, recognition of vulnerabilities, and creation of Threat Based Design (concepts) for the implementation of security measures ✓ 7;
- ✧ An approach to the acquisition of resources to provide for the realization of internationally accepted security measures.