

Practical means to promote information sharing pertaining to the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism

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1. Introduction

On October 30-31, 2006, representatives from 13 governments met in Rabat, Morocco and reached agreement on a Statement of Principles for the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism(GICNT). In three years, the Global Initiative(GI) has matured and garnered support from 76 partners. [1]

The main goal of the Global Initiative is to bring together experience and expertise from the nonproliferation, counter proliferation, and counterterrorism disciplines. All Global Initiative partner nations have, through their endorsement of the Statement of Principles, recognized the importance of information sharing to combat nuclear terrorism. And, Global Initiative Principle Eight also highlights the importance of information sharing. Further, the Global Initiative Explanatory Notes emphasizes the need for “implementing appropriate information sharing arrangements that are supportive of the Statement of Principles.” Therefore information sharing is the main key to success of GICNT.

On August, 2007, the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency(DTRA) established a Global Initiative Information portal(GIIP) for Global Initiative partner nations to share information and best practices to combat nuclear terrorism. This paper outlines the functions of GIIP. And it also suggests establishment of advisory committee for a success of GIIP

2. Functions of Global Initiative Information Portal(GIIP)

The portal provides a practical means by which partner nations can share information and best practices to combat nuclear terrorism, as called for in the Global Initiative terms of Reference. The GIIP implements Global Initiative Principle Eight by developing a secure means to communicate controlled and publicly-releasable unclassified information in a shared portal across the Global Initiative partnership via the World Wide Web.

The GIIP supports implementation of the Global Initiative Statement of Principles by accelerating and deepening implementation of GI Principles one through seven with a flexible and secure means to build individual and partner capacity to combat nuclear terrorism. Partners may post capabilities they are

interested in providing or receiving to fill gaps in national, regional, or global capabilities.

In addition to the GIIP’s importance as a Global Initiative Statement of Principles implementation and support too, it can offer the following functions:

- (1) Global Initiative Electronic Library. Enable all partner nations equal and timely access to source documents for the GI partnership, GI meetings, and GI Planning Scenarios and exercise material, and information on GI Plan of Work Activities.
- (2) Global Initiative Collaboration Tool. Further develop information-sharing capacity to plan and/or exercise and in the future assist partners during real-world events that indicate a nuclear-terrorism threat. The Portal may be used for day-to-day communications among designated Global Initiative Points-of Contact(POCs), including alerting and cueing appropriate operational, regulatory, and technical experts to use established means for exchanging sensitive information.
- (3) Nuclear-Terrorism Research Tool. Provide an unclassified forum to further understand nuclear-terrorism risk, to include threats(terrorist organizations, potential facilitators, means of operation) vulnerabilities(potential targets or capability gaps), and consequences(property/casualty, economic).
- (4) Regional and Global Outreach. Provide a means to support partner nations’ efforts to encourage other states to endorse the Statement of Principles.



3. Requirements for Information Portal Success ; Establishment of a Portal Advisory committee

Internet information sharing involves complex, technical issues that require compromise among varied geopolitical, economic, and technological segments on actors that can make resolution of issues difficult within the standard rulemaking process. To augment that process, development of the information portal will be complemented with the establishment of a portal advisory committee.

The success of this body relies on the appointment of committee members as representatives after making a clear determination of what interests those members are expected to represent on the committee. Will the member from Iceland speak on his or her nation on behalf, as a representative of regional interest, or as an impartial technology expert?

It is the main goal that the advisory committee provides advice and recommendations to the portal host nation on policy-related challenges as well as numerous technical and operational communication issues. These issues range from interoperability and network security to concerns regarding representation and effective implementation of the Global Initiative principles, given the number of partner nations.

The advisory committee may provide advice and recommendations on such things emerging technologies, or enhancing partner nation participation in Plan of Work activities. For example, the Committee might be charged with identifying best practices recommendations for partner nations to ensure an appropriate level of continued operation in times of crisis.

As with all Global Initiative activities, committee membership is voluntary; however 10-12 partner nations would be encouraged to participate. Members would provide one policy representative and one supporting technical representative to provide consistent focus on the reliability, future use, and interoperability of the portal.

The core responsibilities of the Committee would include the following:

- (1) Provide input on continued development of the portal core functions, ensuring that implementation is consistent with Global Initiative Principles
- (2) Participate in the development of a Best Practices Guidelines to facilitate appropriate user activity. User guidelines could include but are not limited to the portal posting procedures, content review and access control, dispute resolution
- (3) Guide the development of non-partner nation and private sector outreach information guidelines

- (4) Guide the development of a framework for non-partner nation portal usage

4. Conclusions

Participants in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism are committed to the Statement of Principles to develop partnership capacity to combat nuclear terrorism on a determined and systematic basis, consistent with national legal authorities and obligations they have under relevant international legal frameworks. The Principle Eight states that all partner nations “will promote information sharing pertaining to the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism and their facilitation, taking appropriate measure consistent with their national law and international obligation to protect the confidentiality of any information which they exchange in confidence.”[2] In that regard, the information sharing is essential to Global Initiative success. Therefore the GICNT partner nations are committed to improve information sharing across all principles – which provides a full spectrum approach to combating nuclear terrorism.

Through the Global Initiative Information Portal, GI partner nations are able to extend opportunities to share information and continue to build trust as partners by new means to improve partner capacity to combat nuclear terrorism – which is what the Global Initiative is all about.

REFERENCES

- [1] <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/c18406.htm>
- [2] <http://www.state.gov/t/isn/rls/other/126995.htm>