



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

Press Release

Table-Top exercise on Radioactive Incident Response – Glowing Tulip, from the Crime Scene to the Courtroom

The Hague, April 26, 2024 –The Netherlands, Romania, and the United States partnered to co-host a four-day workshop on Radioactive Incident Response, held at the Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision in The Hague, the Netherlands from April 23 through 26, 2024. It was organized in close collaboration with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), through funding of the European Union (EU).

The aim of this event is to support participating countries in the development of their forensics response to incidents related to radioactive or nuclear (R/N) materials out of regulatory control, especially as it relates to the criminalization of events under the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). **Ambassador Mika Markus Leinonen, EU Liaison Officer in The Hague**, stated during opening remarks, *“ICSANT is a fundamental instrument and a cornerstone to international order that ensures the peaceful use of nuclear and radiological material.”*

The workshop addressed the role of nuclear forensics experts in the investigation and prosecution of nuclear security incidents, the admissibility of nuclear forensics expert evidence into judicial proceedings, and the importance of pre-incident coordination and communication among scientific, law enforcement, and prosecutorial bodies. The workshop concluded with mock trials demonstrating the introduction and defense of nuclear forensic-related evidence in the judicial systems, emphasizing the universality of key themes reviewed in the workshops. In his opening remarks, **Mr. Marc Elsensohn, CEO of the Netherlands Forensic Institute**, commented, *“With the rising threats of acts of terrorism and the availability of materials to prepare for instance a dirty bomb or other devices, forensic science is challenged to further develop advanced methods and technologies with the aim to investigate acts of terrorism.”*

With the participation of 15 countries, Glowing Tulip 2.0 incorporated new information and practices that were discussed during the March 2015 Glowing Tulip exercise. The Netherlands hosted the original 2015 workshop and mock trial exercise emphasizing strong legal practices regarding nuclear material out of regulatory control and worked with participants’ national laboratories to promote best practices and to support preparing expert testimony. During his opening remarks, **Mr. Sorin Moldovan, Vice Chairman of**

the Romanian Defense, Public Order and National Security Committee and Chairman of the IT&C Committee within the Parliament of Romania highlighted this by declaring, *“If nuclear or other radioactive material is seized outside of regulatory control and is associated with an illicit activity punishable by criminal law, a criminal investigation and/or prosecution must follow.”*

In the opening remarks, **Mr. Lee Skluzak, U.S. Embassy Political Unit Chief**, emphasized the importance of this workshop, stating, *“This exercise comes at a critical time when the need for strong cooperation and information sharing to counter R/N threats is more evident than ever before. Collaboration among nations is vital for this; it is impossible to confront these difficult challenges without working together.”*

Mr. Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup Chief of the Countering Terrorism Section at UNCCT/UNOCT reminded participants that, *“Concerns about non-state actors, including terrorists, gaining access to and use of weapons of mass destruction have been recognized throughout the United Nations System, including in several Security Council resolutions and in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted in 2006.”*

The workshop illustrated the common efforts of the Netherlands, Romania, the United States, UNOCT, and UNODC to enhance information sharing in support of criminal investigations of cases involving R/N material. This includes the sharing of nuclear forensics data to strengthen investigations and regional security cooperation, which serve as a crucial deterrent to the misuse of R/N materials by terrorists or other criminals. **Mr. Roberto Arbitrio, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC**, referred to the event as, *“a prime example of the importance of establishing partnerships and strengthening international cooperation in the field of nuclear security, which requires the joint efforts of several stakeholders.”*