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Experts Praise Nuclear Security Summit, Call for Follow-through and Accountability

WASHINGTON, DC - Nuclear security experts called the Nuclear Security Summit convened by President Obama a major step toward overcoming the barriers to locking down vulnerable nuclear materials to keep them out of the hands of terrorists, but they warned that the real measure of progress will be accountability in implementing the measures discussed at the summit.

"The President has put his personal prestige on line like no other world leader has before," said Kenneth Luongo, President and Founder of Partnership for Global Security and Co-Chair of the Fissile Materials Working Group. "Taken together the individual commitments of participating nations themselves will materially advance the nuclear security agenda. But, when the lights go down tonight, leaders need to hit the ground running on implementation."

"The summit represents a major step in making nuclear security an international priority and increasing the level of commitment to dealing with it, but the administration and partner governments need to turn this momentum into real action in the months and years ahead," said Matthew Bunn, Associate Professor at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Co-Principal Investigator for The Project on Managing the Atom.

"The summit should be the beginning, not the end of global efforts to improve nuclear security," said Miles Pomper, Senior Research Association, The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. "For example, we need to do more to work toward phasing out highly enriched uranium."

Luongo, Bunn, and Pomper are members of the Fissile Materials Working Group (FMWG), a coalition of more than 40 leading experts and NGOs in nuclear security that hosted a parallel summit on Tuesday for experts and NGOs from 37 nations.

For more information, visit www.fmwg.org

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