I commend the delegates gathered in Buenos Aires for the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) for your commitment to combating terrorism and preventing terrorist groups from acquiring and using nuclear and radioactive materials. I also extend my gratitude to the Argentine Republic for serving as a leader in global efforts to strengthen nuclear security and counter terrorism and for hosting this important event.

The stance of the United States is clear: We will draw on the full range of our Nation’s and our allies’ capabilities to place weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and associated materials and expertise beyond the reach of terrorists. Last year, my Administration released our National Strategy for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism, which underscored the bold and innovative steps we are taking to reduce the risk of terrorists acquiring and using WMD. This Strategy highlighted the GICNT’s unique role in supporting these efforts, as a crucial global institution working to establish nuclear security best practices and promote their implementation. Indeed, the GICNT’s partners have hosted more than 15 joint activities since 2017 to combat nuclear terrorism and strengthen international cooperation to address this shared burden. Such critical work must continue. Law enforcement, technical, and policy experts at all levels of government should collaborate within the framework of the GICNT to confront evolving nuclear security and terrorism challenges.

We live in a world in which the spread of technologies that can be used for either peaceful or malicious purposes may allow terrorists to gain access to weapons and materials that could sow death and destruction around the world. This is the threat that the GICNT must continue to address. We must continue to work together in the fight to keep dangerous nuclear and radioactive materials out of the hands of terrorists. Our citizens rely on us to prevent and respond to any terrorist plots to attack our cities and terrorize our people.

I urge all GICNT partners to continue your efforts in support of this important GICNT mission. I send my best wishes for a successful Plenary Meeting.