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**Statement from Sam Nunn, Co-chairman of the Nuclear Threat Initiative,
regarding the Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats**

“I commend the members of the ‘United Nations High-Level Panel on Threat, Challenges and Change’ for their valuable report and their candid recognition that we need to do more, faster to reduce the threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials.

The Report states that preventing the proliferation of these weapons must remain an ‘urgent priority’ for global security and calls for immediate action to defend against possible terrorist use of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons. Specifically, the report:

- Highlights the risk posed by vulnerable nuclear materials around the world, particularly in unsecured research reactors. The Panel says that a ‘high priority must be accorded to consolidating, securing, and when possible eliminating’ these potentially dangerous materials. The Panel supports the acceleration of implementation of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative from 10 years to 5 years.
- Calls for the nuclear-weapon states, led by the United States and Russia, to ‘commit to practical measures to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war, including, where appropriate, a progressive schedule for de-alerting their strategic nuclear weapons.’
- Recommends global efforts to reduce both the supply and demand of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Urges the nuclear weapons states to ‘diminish the perceived value of nuclear weapons and secure robust international cooperation to staunch proliferation.’
- Calls for ‘urgent prevention’ in dealing with the biological weapons threat and a stronger ‘public health defence.’ The report states that ‘international aid for infectious disease monitoring, detection and response is lacking [and] security planning and spending are poorly coordinated with health-care policies and budgets.’
- Urges all chemical-weapon states to expedite the scheduled destruction of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles by the agreed target date of 2012.

At NTI, we share the Panel’s perception of the dangers and support many of its prescriptions for action to reduce the threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials. There should be no higher security priority for our world than keeping these weapons and materials out of the hands of terrorists. Preventing catastrophic terrorism will require an unprecedented degree of international initiative and cooperation. We need a global partnership of nations working together to reduce these threats.

This report is important because it reflects the views of leaders from all over the world with a range of backgrounds, knowledge and experience, who have come together and identified key challenges. I hope it will be a catalyst for making real progress to minimize these dangers.”