Need To Redouble Efforts for Complete Disarmament of Mass Destruction Weapons – Zahid
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WASHINGTON, April 2 (Bernama) -- There is a need to redouble efforts towards the ultimate goal of attaining general and complete disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said although the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) had intensified efforts to bring the issue of nuclear security to the forefront, the nuclear disarmament process should also be accelerated as nuclear weapons continued to pose one of the greatest dangers to mankind.

"We must also strengthen the capacity to maintain effective control and undertake pre-emptive actions to ensure nuclear security," he said at the plenary session of the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit at the Walter E Washington Convention Centre here Friday.

The two-day summit was attended by 53 countries and four international organizations, including the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) which ended Friday.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, said there was also a need to strengthen the capacity to maintain effective control and undertake pre-emptive actions to ensure nuclear security.

"We need to further enhance cooperation in capacity building, timely sharing of information and intelligence, and adopt best practices, in our common endeavor to secure nuclear materials and ensure that they do not fall into the wrong hands, that of non-state actors and terrorist organizations," he said.

He said Malaysia, as a state party of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member state of the IAEA, has undertook various measures and was fully committed in supporting the efforts to achieve global nuclear security.

He said among the steps taken was "finalizing the domestic legislation for ratification, within this year, of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment, the International Convention against the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the IAEA additional protocol."

Zahid said Malaysia had also set up a nuclear security detection laboratory that focused on maintenance and configuration of radiation detection equipment under the Malaysian National Nuclear Security Support Centre with the cooperation of IAEA, which was approved last February.

It also had deployed radiation detection equipment at all points of entry and exit in the country, he added.

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