



**IAEA**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# **International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future**

**IAEA Headquarters**

**Vienna, Austria**

**20–24 May 2024**

**Organized by the**

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

## **Announcement and Call for Papers**

## A. Background

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has provided, upon request, assistance to Member States and supported their national efforts in the area of nuclear security since the early 1970s. These activities helped States establish and improve their national nuclear security regimes. In the years since, the IAEA's role has evolved with the Agency now developing security requirements and guidance for use around the world. The Agency also, upon request, offers training, technical advice, peer reviews and other advisory services.

The responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. Member States have consistently recognized the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international cooperation in nuclear security.

In recent years, the IAEA's International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) has become a key event for the nuclear security community around the world. Noting the importance of ICONS for the nuclear security, the resolution GC(66)/RES/7 adopted at the 66<sup>th</sup> General Conference in September 2022, called for the continuation of organizing the ICONS every four years.

*ICONS 2024: Shaping the Future* will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 20 to 24 May 2024. It will have two main parts:

- A ministerial segment which will provide an opportunity for ministers to deliver messages on achievements and adopt a Ministerial Declaration; and
- A scientific and technical programme comprising of high level policy discussions on the overall themes central to nuclear security and parallel technical sessions on specialized scientific technical, legal and regulatory issues concerning nuclear security.

*ICONS 2024* is the fourth ICONS and follows the success of the most recent ICONS held in Vienna, Austria, in February 2020. *ICONS 2020* attracted more than 2400 registered participants from 145 Member States, including 54 representations at the Ministerial level, and 25 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Previous ICONS were hosted by the IAEA in 2013 and 2016. *ICONS 2024* will inform preparation of IAEA's next Nuclear Security Plan, which will cover the period 2026–2029. In general, the conference will cover areas that are attributable to the security of nuclear and other radioactive material, under and out of regulatory control.

## B. Purpose and Objectives

*ICONS 2024* will provide a global forum for ministers, policymakers, senior officials and nuclear security experts to discuss the future of nuclear security worldwide, whilst providing opportunities for exchanging information, sharing best practices and fostering international cooperation.

The conference will:

- Raise awareness of a wide range of nuclear security topics to maintain and further strengthen national nuclear security regimes for nuclear and other radioactive materials and associated facilities used for peaceful purposes, as well as international cooperation in strengthening nuclear security globally;
- Review nuclear security experiences and achievements, current approaches and trends, and highlight areas that may need more focused attention including technological dimensions;
- Promote IAEA nuclear security guidance, and experience of States in their application, including through peer reviews, advisory services and capacity building;
- Promote the sharing of information and good practices in nuclear security while protecting sensitive information;

- Reaffirm and support the central role of the IAEA in strengthening nuclear security globally and in leading the coordination of international activities in the field of nuclear security, while avoiding duplication and overlap;
- Highlight and promote the IAEA's efforts to promote adherence to relevant international legally binding instruments and commitment to the legally non-binding instruments; and
- Discuss further enhancements of IAEA nuclear security activities and their sustainability.

**Participants are encouraged not to discuss any sensitive nuclear security information.**

## C. Themes and Topics

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the overall themes for the conference will include:

### **Policy and Regulations for nuclear security**

- International framework for nuclear security, including legally binding and non-binding instruments
- Regulation development and implementation
  - Support for embarking countries
  - Approaches to regulation (prescriptive, performance-based, technology neutral)
  - Challenges in meeting changing demands due to emerging technologies and emerging threats
  - Tools and approaches for regulators for evaluation of policy and regulations

### **Technology and infrastructure for nuclear security prevention, detection and response**

- Current and existing technologies including issues related to aging facilities and lifecycle management, research reactors, decommissioned facilities and facilities being decommissioned, and other facilities using and/or manufacturing nuclear or other radioactive material
- Emerging nuclear technologies including small modular reactors, micro reactors, other novel reactor designs, spent fuel storage and disposal, and evaluation of such technologies in relation to nuclear security
- Emerging non-nuclear technologies including artificial intelligence, uncrewed systems, etc. (both as potential tools for nuclear security and as potential risks) and evaluation of such technologies as related to nuclear security
- Approaches to nuclear security including graded approach, defence in depth, and risk-informed
- Existing and emerging threats, prevention, protection and assessment including design basis threat, insider threat and evaluation and assessment of protection systems
- Supply chain security
- Nuclear forensics
- Materials security, including transportation of nuclear and other radioactive material, material accounting and control, national accounting and control measures, and preventing illicit trafficking
- Building and maintenance of nuclear security detection architecture
- Coordinated response to nuclear security events

### **Capacity Building for nuclear security**

- Workforce development
  - Skills for nuclear security
  - Cross and inter-disciplinary concepts
- Workforce management

- Attracting the next generation
- Retention and knowledge management
- Creating and maintaining workforce diversity

### **Cross-cutting nuclear security topics**

- Information exchange and regional and international cooperation
- Information and computer security considerations for nuclear security
- Interfaces between nuclear security and safety
- Interfaces between nuclear security and State systems of accounting and control
- IAEA assistance programmes and advisory services
- Communication on nuclear security
- Nuclear security culture
- Contribution of industry to nuclear security

## **D. Structure**

The conference will include:

- A two day ministerial segment featuring national statements, interactive sessions for Ministers, high level policy discussions for Ministers and the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.
- A three day scientific and technical programme to include an opening plenary session, high level policy discussions, parallel streams of technical sessions and a concluding plenary session dedicated to the President's Report.
  - High-level policy discussion sessions will feature invited speakers and panel discussions.
  - Technical sessions will include presentations on selected papers on topical areas.
  - Poster sessions.
- Side events and exhibitions including interactive sessions or demonstrations.

The final determination of the number and scope of technical sessions will be based on the nature and number of abstracts received. Abstracts on technical topics should be submitted following the guidance given in Section G. Sufficient time will be provided throughout the conference for discussion and interaction with participants.

A detailed programme will be made available on the conference web page in advance of the conference.

## **E. Expected Outcomes**

The conference will contribute to raising awareness of emerging challenges, lessons learned and best practices in the field of nuclear security. It will foster international cooperation as well as bring together experts and policy-makers to promote the exchange of information and experiences in developing, sustaining and strengthening national nuclear security regimes whilst planning and preparing for future challenges and needs.

A Ministerial Declaration will be adopted during the Ministerial segment of the conference, which will inform future Agency activities and the development of the next IAEA Nuclear Security Plan.

## F. Target Audience

*ICONS 2024* will bring together ministers, senior government officials, high level staff from agencies involved in making policy for, and managing, nuclear security, and technical and legal experts working in all areas of nuclear security. The conference is also intended to attract industry and civil society representatives, including non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of individuals from developing countries. Participation by women, and early career professionals is highly encouraged.

## G. Call for Papers

Contributions on the topics listed in Section C are welcome as oral or poster presentations. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work, which has not been published elsewhere.

### G.1. Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts (approximately 150 to 200 words on one printed A4 page, may contain any charts, graphs, figures and references) should give enough information on the content of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Anyone wishing to present at the conference must submit an abstract in electronic format using the conference's file submission system ([IAEA-INDICO](#)), which is accessible from the conference web page (see Section Q). The abstract can be submitted through this system until **15 September 2023**. Specifications for the layout will be available on IAEA-INDICO. The system for electronic submission of abstracts, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed abstracts. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

In addition, authors must register online using the InTouch+ platform (see Section H). The online registration together with the auto-generated Participation Form (Form A) and Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) must reach the IAEA no later than 15 December 2023.

**IMPORTANT:** The Programme Committee will consider uploaded abstracts only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section H).

### G.2. Acceptance of Abstracts

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude abstracts that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics listed in Section C.

Authors will be informed by 29 December 2023 as to whether their submission has been accepted, either orally or as a poster, for presentation at the conference.

Accepted abstracts will also be reproduced in an unedited electronic compilation of Abstracts which will be made available to all registered participants of the conference.

### G.3 Submission of Full Papers

Authors of accepted abstracts will be requested to submit a full paper in Word format, of about **7 to 10** pages in length. A compilation of full papers (in electronic format) will be made available to participants at registration.

Full papers must also be submitted through the [IAEA-INDICO](#) file submission system in Word format. Submitting the paper in the indicated electronic format is mandatory. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the contributed papers and for the preparation of posters will be made available on IAEA-INDICO.

The IAEA reserves the right to exclude papers that do not comply with its quality standards and those that do not apply to one of the topics outlined in Section C above and those that do not meet the expectations based on the information in the abstract.

The deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as Word files is 1 March 2024. The IAEA will not accept papers submitted after the deadline.

**IMPORTANT:** The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed papers. Authors are encouraged to submit papers as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

### G.4 Proceedings

The proceedings will be made available online.

## H. Participation and Registration

*ICONS 2024* will consist of two parts, a Ministerial segment, and a scientific and technical programme. All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be either designated by a Member State or an invited organization as an individual participant (as outlined in para H.1) or part of a delegation (registration process outlined in para H.2),

### H.1 Individual Registration of participants

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be a member of an organization that has been invited to attend.

Individual registration also aims to facilitate applications for financial support and provision of visa support letters, for participants attending the conference.

#### **Individual Registration through InTouch+:**

1. Access the InTouch+ web page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
  - Participants with an existing NUCLEUS account can [sign in here](#) with their username and password;
  - Participants without an existing NUCLEUS account can [register here](#).
2. Once signed in, participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
  - Complete or update their personal details under 'Basic Profile' (if no financial support is requested) or under 'Complete Profile' (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
  - Search for the relevant event (EVT2300037) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
  - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact);

- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information;
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application together with the auto-generated form(s) will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application together with the form(s) will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform. Applications submitted and approved via InTouch+ should not additionally be sent via email to the IAEA.

**NOTE:** Should participants wish to request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadline (see section I).

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

If it is not possible to submit your application through the InTouch+ platform, participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via e-mail: [Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

## H.2 Registration of Delegations

Designated focal points for online registration shall register their delegation through the InTouch+ online portal, accessible through the following link <https://intouchplus.iaea.org/>

Registration will be open as of **29 September 2023** and should be completed by **10 May 2024** under EVT2303070.

Delegates who require financial support are in addition required to submit their individual registration under the Individual Registration as outlined in para. H.1.

Visa related enquiries should be addressed to [Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org). The IAEA's support of visa applications to registered delegates is subject to the host country's policy on visas and entry requirements. The outcome of visa applications is at the discretion of the Austrian authorities.

A list of participants will be issued containing information that has been received by the Secretariat through the Registration of Delegations and will be made available on the IAEA Conference and Meetings App.

**NOTE:** Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

## I. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section H.1). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by 16 October 2023; (as outlined in H.1.)
2. Accompanied by Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

## **J. Distribution of Documents**

A preliminary and final programme will be made available on the conference web page (see Section Q) prior to the start of the conference. The electronic compilation of abstracts will be accessible free of charge to participants registered for the conference.

## **K. Exhibitions**

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email [ICONS2024@iaea.org](mailto:ICONS2024@iaea.org) by 29 September 2023.

## **L. Working Language**

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

## **M. Venue and Accommodation**

The conference will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on <https://www.iaea.org/events>. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

## N. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as three months but not later than four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information document available on <https://www.iaea.org/events>.

## O. Key Deadlines and Dates

Submission of abstracts through IAEA-INDICO	<b>15 September 2023</b>
Submission of Form B (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	<b>15 December 2023</b>
Submission of Form C (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	<b>16 October 2023</b>
Notification of acceptance of abstracts for oral or poster presentation	<b>29 December 2023</b>
Electronic submission of full papers through IAEA-INDICO	<b>1 March 2024</b>
Notification of review of full papers	<b>28 March 2024</b>
Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request) through the InTouch+ platform	<b>10 May 2024</b>

## P. Conference Secretariat

### General Postal Address and Contact Details of the IAEA:

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 Vienna International Centre  
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 1400 VIENNA  
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**Scientific Secretary of the Conference:**

**Ms Sara MROZ**

Division of Nuclear Security

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**Administration and Organization:**

**Mr Sanjai PADMANABHAN**

Conference Services Section

Division of Conference and Document Services

Department of Management

IAEA-CN-321; EVT2300037; EVT2303070

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Email: [Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org)

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

## **Q. Conference Web Page**

Please visit the IAEA conference <https://www.iaea.org/events/icons2024> regularly for new information regarding this conference.