



International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

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## THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE

### Report by the Director General

1. In September 1984, at its twenty-eighth regular session, the General Conference adopted resolution GC(XXVIII)/RES/431, in which it: (a) requested the Director General to continue the Agency's interest in the field of liability for nuclear damage; (b) expressed the hope that more Member States would give consideration to adhering to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage; and (c) further requested the Director General to report to the General Conference at its next regular session on further acceptances of the Convention. This report is submitted to the Conference in response to that request.
2. The Convention entered into force on 12 November 1977; it is now in force between ten States. Since the twenty-eighth regular session of the General Conference, the Convention has been signed by Morocco. The status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention is shown in the Annex.
3. On 15 January 1985, the Director General addressed a note verbale to those Member States which had not yet signed or ratified the Convention requesting information concerning any action which they might consider taking with respect to the Convention. From the replies so far received, it appears that some Governments are taking steps in accordance with their constitutional requirements to become parties to the Convention. A number of other Governments stated that they were not at present considering any action in that regard,

either because they are already parties to the Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy of 1960 (the Paris Convention) and the Brussels Supplementary Convention of 1963 or on account of the liability limit provided for in the Vienna Convention. Of the latter Governments, however, some have indicated that they might reconsider their position in this respect should further acceptances of the Vienna Convention broaden the scope of its application.

4. To this end, the Agency has been providing advisory services to Member States, in particular developing countries, in the framing of legislation based on the principles and provisions of the Convention. As a result of such assistance, some countries in 1984 enacted legislation fully consistent with the Convention; others are receiving similar assistance this year.

5. The Agency's continued interest in nuclear liability matters was further reflected in its holding, jointly with the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/NEA), of a Symposium on Nuclear Third Party Liability and Insurance in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany, in September 1984. The Symposium, which was attended by participants from 34 countries and several international organizations, provided an opportunity for a worldwide review of the current status of the international nuclear liability régime, more than two decades after its establishment, and for consideration of the prospects for its adjustment to evolving requirements. The Symposium helped to highlight areas where improvement could be sought through international co-operation in tackling practical problems or emerging issues; its proceedings, published earlier this year by the two sponsoring organizations<sup>1/</sup>, provide useful material for further work in this connection.

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<sup>1/</sup> Nuclear Third Party Liability and Insurance - Status and Prospects; Proceedings of the Munich Symposium, 10 - 14 September 1984, organized jointly by the OECD/NEA and the IAEA; OECD, Paris 1985.

## ANNEX

## VIENNA CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR NUCLEAR DAMAGE

Status of signatures and ratifications

Contracting Parties	Ratification/Accession
Cameroon (accession)	6 March 1964
Cuba	25 October 1965
Egypt	5 November 1965
Philippines	15 November 1965
Trinidad and Tobago (accession)	31 January 1966
Argentina	25 April 1967
Bolivia (accession)	10 April 1968
Yugoslavia	12 August 1977
Niger (accession)	24 July 1979
Peru (accession)	26 August 1980
Other Signatories	Date of signing
Colombia	21 May 1963
Spain	6 September 1963
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11 November 1964
Morocco	30 November 1984

