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MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR, RADIATION AND WASTE SAFETY

SAFETY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND STATUS

1. Three legally binding international agreements aimed at strengthening international co-operation in nuclear, radiation and waste safety have been adopted by the international community and are now being implemented by the parties to them, with the support of the Secretariat:

- the *Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident* - the "Early Notification Convention", which was opened for signature on 26 September 1986 and entered into force on 27 October 1986 (INFCIRC/335);
- the *Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency* - the "Assistance Convention", which was opened for signature on 26 September 1986 and entered into force on 26 February 1987 (INFCIRC/336); and
- the *Convention on Nuclear Safety* - which was opened for signature on 20 September 1994 and entered into force on 24 October 1996 (INFCIRC/449).

2. A further such agreement - the *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radiation Waste Management* - was opened for signature on 29 September 1997, but it has not yet entered into force (INFCIRC/546).

<p>For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.</p>

3. The Director General is the depositary for each of these four conventions.¹ In addition, the conventions assign tasks to the Secretariat; these include the collection and dissemination of information and the provision of assistance in the event of nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies.

4. The table at the end of this document summarizes the status of each of the four safety-related conventions as of 31 July 2000, and relevant developments since the General Conference's 1999 session are described below. Up-to-date information on the status of the conventions is available to Member States on the Agency's WorldAtom web site, at <http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/Documents/Legal/>.

Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident

5. The Early Notification Convention has not been formally invoked since the 1999 session of the General Conference. During the September 1999 accident at Tokaimura, Japan, some of the mechanisms established for use in the event of the Convention's being invoked were used for disseminating information to Member States.

6. As of 31 July 2000, there were 84 parties to the Early Notification Convention (81 States and three organizations).

Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

7. Since the 1999 session of the General Conference, the Secretariat has received requests for assistance under the terms of the Convention in relation to:

- (a) the safe retrieval of an industrial radiography source which became stuck outside its housing, from Ghana; and
- (b) the treatment of individuals exposed to radiation from a cobalt-60 radiotherapy source found in a scrap yard, from Thailand.

As part of ongoing assistance to Georgia (see the section entitled "**Radiation sources**" in the Nuclear Safety Review for the Year 1998 - document GC(43)/INF/4), an aerial survey has been conducted of an area within Georgian territory in a systematic attempt to locate abandoned radiation sources.

8. As of 31 July 2000, there were 79 parties to the Assistance Convention (76 States and three organizations).

¹ Other relevant conventions for which the Director General performs depositary functions are: the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material; the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (and the Protocol amending it); and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

Convention on Nuclear Safety

9. Since the 1999 session of the General Conference, one State - Sri Lanka - and one regional organization - EURATOM - have adhered to the Convention. A total of 52 States (29 of which have at least one “nuclear installation”, as defined in the Convention, that has achieved criticality in a reactor core) and one organization had deposited instruments of ratification, accession or acceptance by 31 July 2000. Of the 19 States that have signed the Convention but are not parties to it, two - India and Kazakhstan - have at least one installation that has achieved criticality in a reactor core.

Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

10. The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (the Joint Convention) will enter into force 90 days after 25 States, at least 15 of which have operational nuclear power plants, have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval.

11. Article 29 of the Joint Convention provides that a preparatory meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be held not later than six months after the date of the Joint Convention’s entry into force and that, at the preparatory meeting, the Contracting Parties shall - inter alia - adopt Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and establish guidelines regarding the form and structure of the national reports to be submitted to the review meetings of Contracting Parties and the process for reviewing such reports. The first review meeting of Contracting Parties is to be held as soon as possible, but not later than thirty months, after the entry into force of the Joint Convention. Article 37 of the Joint Convention provides that the Agency shall provide the secretariat for the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

12. Following a third informal meeting of representatives of States and organizations interested in the Joint Convention, held in October 1999 under the chairmanship of Mr. George Jack of Canada, draft versions of Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, of Guidelines Regarding the Review Process and of Guidelines regarding the Form and Structure of National Reports now exist in readiness for consideration at the preparatory meeting.

13. As of 31 July 2000, the Joint Convention had been signed by 41 States and ratified, accepted or approved by 22 - of which 15 had operational nuclear power plants. In order to enter into force, therefore, the Joint Convention needs to be ratified, accepted or approved by only three more States. If it enters into force before the end of 2000, the preparatory meeting of the Contracting Parties will be held around the middle of 2001 and the first review meeting in 2003.

STATUS OF SAFETY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, 31 JULY 2000

In the table below:

- a date in bold type indicates, for a Contracting Party, the year of the deposit of an expression of consent to be bound (i.e. an instrument of ratification, accession, acceptance, etc.) with the depositary;
- a date in parentheses indicates, for a signatory which is not a Contracting Party, the year of signature; and
- (ocp) indicates, for a State or organization which is not a signatory or a Contracting Party, that an official contact point for the purposes of the relevant convention has been made known to the Secretariat. Unless otherwise indicated, signatories of and Contracting Parties to the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention have notified the Agency of an official contact point.

	Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
<u>IAEA Member States</u>				
Afghanistan	(1986) ^a	(1986) ^a		
Albania				
Algeria	(1987)	(1987)	(1994)	
Angola				
Argentina	1990	1990	1997	(1997)
Armenia	1993	1993	1998	
Australia	1987	1987	1996	(1998)
Austria	1988	1989	1997	(1998)
Bangladesh	1988	1988	1995	
Belarus	1987	1987	1998	(1999)
Belgium	1999	1999	1997	(1997)
Benin				
Bolivia	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1998	1998^a		
Brazil	1990	1990	1997	(1997)
Bulgaria	1988	1988	1995	2000
Burkina Faso				
Cambodia				
Cameroon	(1987)	(1987) ^a		

	Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
Canada	1990	(1986)	1995	1998
Chile	(1986)	(1986) ^a	1996	
China	1987	1987	1996	
Colombia	(ocp)			
Costa Rica	1991	1991		
Côte d'Ivoire	(1986)	(1986) ^a		
Croatia	1992	1992	1996	1999
Cuba	1991	1991	(1994)	
Cyprus	1989	1989	1999	
Czech Republic	1993	1993	1995	1999
Democratic Republic of the Congo	(1986)	(1986) ^a		
Denmark	1986	(1986)	1998	1999
Dominican Republic				
Ecuador	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Egypt	1988	1988	(1994)	
El Salvador				
Estonia	1994	1994		
Ethiopia	(ocp)			
Finland	1986	1990	1996	2000
France	1989	1989	1995	2000
Gabon	(ocp)			
Georgia	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Germany	1989	1989	1997	1998
Ghana	(ocp)	(ocp)	(1995)	
Greece	1991	1991	1997	2000
Guatemala	1988	1988^a		
Haiti	(ocp)			
Holy See	(1986)	(1986) ^a		
Hungary	1987	1987	1996	1998
Iceland	1989	(1986) ^a	(1995)	
India	1988	1988	(1994)	
Indonesia	1993	1993	(1994)	(1997)
Iran, Islamic Republic of	(1986)	(1986)		
Iraq	1988	1988		
Ireland	1991	1991	1996	(1997)
Israel	1989	1989	(1994)	
Italy	1990	1990	1998	(1998)

	Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
Jamaica				
Japan	1987	1987	1995	
Jordan	1987	1987	(1994)	
Kazakhstan	(ocp)	(ocp)	(1996)	(1997)
Kenya	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Korea, Republic of	1990	1990	1995	(1997)
Kuwait	(ocp)			
Latvia	1992	1992	1996	2000
Lebanon	1997	1997	1996	(1997)
Liberia				
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	(ocp)	1990^a		
Liechtenstein	1994	1994^a		
Lithuania	1994	(ocp)	1996	(1997)
Luxembourg	(1986)	(ocp)	1997	(1997)
Madagascar	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Malaysia	1987	1987		
Mali	(1986) ^a	(1986) ^a	1996	
Malta	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Marshall Islands				
Mauritius	1992	1992		
Mexico	1988	1988	1996	
Monaco	1989	1989	(1996)	
Mongolia	1987	1987^a		
Morocco	1993	1993	(1994)	1999
Myanmar	1997	(ocp)		
Namibia				
Netherlands	1991	1991	1996	2000
New Zealand	1987	1987		
Nicaragua	1993	1993^a	(1994)	
Niger	(1986)	(1986)		
Nigeria	1990	1990^a	(1994)	
Norway	1986	1986	1994	1998
Pakistan	1989	1989	1997	
Panama	1999^a	1999^a		
Paraguay	(1986)	(1986)		
Peru	1995	1995	1997	(1998)
Philippines	1997	1997	(1994)	(1998)

	Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
Poland	1988	1988	1995	2000
Portugal	1993	(1986)	1998	
Qatar	(ocp)			
Republic of Moldova	1998	1998	1998	
Romania	1990	1990	1995	1999
Russian Federation	1986	1986	1996	(1999)
Saudi Arabia	1989	1989		
Senegal	(1987)	(1987) ^a		
Sierra Leone	(1987) ^a	(1987) ^a		
Singapore	1997	1997	1997	
Slovakia	1993	1993	1995	1998
Slovenia	1992	1992	1996	1999
South Africa	1987	1987	1996	
Spain	1989	1989	1995	1999
Sri Lanka	1991^a	1991^a	1999	
Sudan	(1986)	(1986)	(1994)	
Sweden	1987	1992	1995	1999
Switzerland	1988	1988	1996	2000
Syrian Arab Republic	(1987)	(1987)	(1994)	
Thailand	1989	1989		
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1996	1996^a		
Tunisia	1989	1989^a	(1994)	
Turkey	1991	1991	1995	
Uganda				
Ukraine	1987	1987	1998	2000
United Arab Emirates	1987	1987^a		
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1990	1990	1996	(1997)
United Republic of Tanzania	(ocp)	(ocp)		
United States of America	1988	1988	1999	(1997)
Uruguay	1989	1989	(1996)	
Uzbekistan				
Venezuela				
Viet Nam	1987	1987		
Yemen	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Yugoslavia	1989	1991^a		

	Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
Zambia	(ocp)			
Zimbabwe	(1986) ^a	(1986) ^a		
<u>Non-Member States^b</u>				
Belize	(ocp)			
Brunei Darussalam	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Cape Verde	(ocp)			
Chad	(ocp)			
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	(1986)	(1986)		
Dominica	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Grenada	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Guinea	(ocp)			
Guinea-Bissau	(ocp)			
Kiribati	(ocp)			
Kyrgyzstan	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Malawi	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Maldives	(ocp)			
Papua New Guinea	(ocp)			
Saint Lucia	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Samoa	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Tonga	(ocp)	(ocp)		
Turkmenistan	(ocp)			
<u>International Organizations^b</u>				
Arab Atomic Energy Agency	(ocp)	(ocp)		
European Atomic Energy Community	(ocp)		2000	
Food and Agriculture Organization	1990	1990		
International Labour Organization	(ocp)	(ocp)		
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	(ocp)	(ocp)		
United Nations Environment Programme	(ocp)			
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	(ocp)			
World Health Organization	1988	1988 ^a		
World Meteorological Organization	1990	1990 ^a		

Early Notification	Assistance	Nuclear Safety	Joint Convention
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^a Signatories and Contracting Parties which have not notified the Agency of an official contact point in relation to the relevant convention.

^b Non-Member States and international organizations are listed only if they are signatories of or Contracting Parties to at least one convention or if they have notified the Agency of an official contact point in relation to at least one convention.