

General Conference

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Communication received from the Permanent Mission of Australia regarding the request to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled “Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT”

1. On 20 September 2023, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Australia, on behalf of the Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, related to the request from the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to include in the agenda of the Conference an item entitled “Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT”.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the attention of all IAEA Member States.



AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

No. IA 23/80

The Australian Permanent Mission in Vienna presents its compliments on behalf of the Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America note with regret the proposed inclusion of a politically motivated agenda item by a single Member State (GC(67)/1/Add.4) to the agenda of the 67th (2023) regular session of the General Conference. We reiterate the concerns expressed each time this agenda item has been similarly added to the agenda of the Board of Governors, as stated in GOV/INF/2023/13, GOV/INF/2023/5, and at regular intervals since November 2021.

We remain concerned that one Member State continues to politicise the issue of Australia's naval nuclear propulsion program through the repeated addition of ad hoc items to the agenda of both the Board of Governors and the General Conference. It is disappointing that we must continue to state for the record that these agenda items do not enjoy the support of Australia, the United Kingdom or the United States. We understand from our extensive consultations, and from Board discussions, that the majority of IAEA Member States are of the view that this agenda item is unnecessary and unjustified. Out of respect for our fellow Member States' time, we will not take procedural action against the inclusion of this agenda item in this instance but we reserve the right to do so in the future, as required.

We welcomed the Director General's decision to report on developments related to naval nuclear propulsion, including in his report to the June 2023 Board entitled *Naval nuclear propulsion: Australia* (GOV/INF/2023/10), as well as in his statements to the

Board, including in document 2023/Note 44. We support the Director General's continued commitment to provide updates on naval nuclear propulsion programs, as appropriate.

In addition to our updates to the Board of Governors, we were pleased to provide a number of public updates on Australia's naval nuclear propulsion program in the past year, including:

- INFCIRC/1037 on 14 September 2022, containing an update on cooperation under the AUKUS partnership.
- INFCIRC/1079 on 14 March 2023, containing correspondence on the occasion of the announcement of the optimal pathway.

In the interest of transparency, we have also published extensive, publicly available resources on the AUKUS partnership and have welcomed the opportunity to brief international partners on our progress to date.

We request that this note be circulated to all Member States.

The Australian Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration on behalf of the Permanent Missions of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America

Vienna, 20 September 2023



International Atomic Energy Agency
VIENNA