

Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy

**Working paper submitted by Australia, Austria, Canada,
Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New
Zealand, Norway and Sweden (the Vienna Group of Ten)**

Key points

- The Vienna Group of Ten recognizes the benefits that can be obtained from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and that all States parties have the right to participate in the exchange of equipment, material, services and scientific and technological information.
- The Group regards adherence to, and compliance with, the non-proliferation and verification requirements of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a precondition for cooperation in this field. The use of nuclear energy must also be accompanied by adherence to the highest levels of safety and security.
- The Group underlines the importance, for human safety and the environment, of instruments, standards and codes of conduct developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as its essential role in assisting developing States parties in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- The Group believes that the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the IAEA technical cooperation programme need to be further enhanced, and that close cooperation with other States parties and international organizations is essential in this regard.
- The Group welcomes the decisions made by IAEA related to assurances of supply.

Working paper on implementation of the Action Plan

1. The Vienna Group of Ten notes that the Treaty fosters the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing a framework of confidence that is a precondition for those uses. By aiming to ensure that nuclear materials and facilities do not contribute to nuclear proliferation, the Treaty creates the necessary basis for technological transfer and cooperation.



2. The Vienna Group notes that, for the purposes of article IV of the Treaty, “nuclear energy” embraces both power and non-power applications.
3. Nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The Vienna Group recognizes that this right constitutes one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. States may choose individually not to exercise all their rights, or to exercise those rights collectively.
4. The Vienna Group recognizes the benefits that can be obtained from the peaceful applications of nuclear energy and nuclear techniques in the fields referred to in articles II and III in the statute of IAEA. All States parties to the Treaty have undertaken to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material, services and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe and secure environment.
5. While maintaining an overall commitment to article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Vienna Group regards adherence to, and compliance with, the non-proliferation and verification requirements of the Treaty as a precondition for cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, universal adherence to the Additional Protocol to States’ safeguards agreements underpins a stable, open and transparent international security environment for peaceful nuclear cooperation.
6. The Vienna Group considers that States parties should not engage in active nuclear cooperation with those States parties that are in non-compliance with the terms of their safeguards agreement with IAEA, as established by the IAEA Board of Governors, unless such cooperation is consistent with relevant decisions of the Board of Governors or the United Nations Security Council.
7. The Vienna Group recognizes the significant role nuclear applications can have in areas including addressing health, water management, agriculture, food safety and nutrition, energy and environmental needs and concerns. In this context, nuclear applications can make a considerable contribution to advancing the Millennium Development Goals. The Group notes the valuable role of the IAEA technical cooperation programme in this regard. Since such progress can be properly achieved only in an environment where safety, security and safeguards are assured, the Group welcomes all steps taken to create such an environment.
8. In all activities designed to facilitate the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Vienna Group affirms that an INFCIRC/153 (Corrected) safeguards agreement together with an Additional Protocol (INFCIRC/540 (Corrected)) represent the best current verification standard pursuant to article III (1) of the Treaty.
9. The Vienna Group underlines the importance of instruments, standards and codes of conduct developed within the framework of IAEA for the purpose of preventing and mitigating any potential harmful effects on human safety and the environment.
10. The Vienna Group underlines the essential role of IAEA in assisting States parties in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the development of efficient and effective programmes aimed at improving their scientific, technological and

regulatory capabilities. Close cooperation with other States parties and international organizations, most notably of the United Nations system, is essential in this regard in order to achieve synergies and avoid overlap.

11. The Vienna Group commends the IAEA secretariat for its efforts to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the IAEA technical cooperation programme and to ensure the continuing relevance of the programme to the changing circumstances and needs of recipient IAEA member States. The Group stresses the importance for technical cooperation of the IAEA medium-term strategy, which seeks to promote the major priorities of each recipient, through model project standards and expanded use of country programme commitment as a prerequisite for such cooperation. The Group recommends that IAEA continue taking this objective, and the needs of developing countries, notably least developed countries, and the Millennium Development Goals into account when planning its future activities.

12. Technical cooperation activities can be properly assured in the long term only when the financial requirements for all statutory activities of IAEA are fully met. In this context, the Vienna Group stresses the importance of IAEA resources for technical cooperation activities being assured, predictable and sufficient, and urges all IAEA member States to make every effort to contribute to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund as well as to honour their obligations to pay their assessed programme costs, as well as any arrears of national participation costs. Furthermore, the Group welcomes the IAEA peaceful uses initiative to provide extrabudgetary contributions to IAEA technical cooperation activities, and welcomes the contributions already made or pledged by countries and groups of countries in support of IAEA activities.

13. When developing nuclear energy, including nuclear power, the Vienna Group underlines the importance of ensuring that the use of nuclear energy is accompanied by commitments to and ongoing implementation of safeguards as well as the highest levels of safety and security. The Group also stresses the importance, when developing nuclear energy, of ensuring that the technical and regulatory infrastructure and a skilled workforce, as well as a legislative framework and regulatory bodies are in place.

14. The Vienna Group welcomes the decisions by the IAEA Board of Governors related to assurances of supply, including the establishment of a low-enriched uranium bank, under the auspices of IAEA. Furthermore, the Group encourages continued discussions under the auspices of IAEA, and in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner, on the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, dealing with the front and back end of the fuel cycle, including possible additional mechanisms to ensure nuclear fuel supply.

15. In order to promote the sharing of best practices in the area of nuclear safety and security, the Vienna Group encourages the active participation, as and when appropriate, of the nuclear industry and the private sector through dialogue.