
2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear safety and waste management

Working paper submitted by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden

Nuclear safety

1. The Conference notes that a demonstrated global record of safety in all activities throughout the nuclear fuel cycle is a key element for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and that continuous efforts are required to ensure that the technical and human requirements of safety culture are maintained at the optimal level. Although safety is a national responsibility, international cooperation on all safety-related matters is indispensable.

2. The Conference affirms that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons can help to ensure that international cooperation in nuclear safety will take place within an appropriate non-proliferation framework. The Conference acknowledges the primary responsibility of individual States for the safety of nuclear installations within their territories, or under their jurisdiction, and the crucial importance of an adequate national technical, human and regulatory infrastructure in nuclear safety, radiological protection and waste management for the peaceful application of nuclear energy.

3. The Conference further endorses the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) directed towards the strengthening of nuclear safety in operating power and research reactors. Specific activities include the international peer review services, such as the Engineering Safety Review Services (ESRS), the Operational Safety Review Team (OSART), the International Probabilistic Safety Assessments Review Team (IPSART), the International Regulatory Review Team (IRRT) and the Integrated Safety Assessment of Research Reactors (INSARR), the work of the IAEA safety standards advisory commission and committees in the preparation of internationally recognized guidelines and codes, the support to the regulatory bodies and other relevant areas of the infrastructure of Member States through technical assistance programmes, the emergency response unit and the continuing work on transport safety matters.

4. The Conference welcomes the intensification of international cooperation in order to strengthen nuclear safety and radiological protection, mainly under the auspices of IAEA.

5. The Conference welcomes and endorses the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and urges all States, particularly those operating, constructing or planning nuclear power reactors, which have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Convention, to do so. It would also welcome a voluntary extension of the Convention to areas beyond operating power plants. The Conference also expresses its satisfaction with the outcome of the first review meeting under the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and looks forward to the report from the next review meeting, particularly with respect to those areas where the first review meeting found that there was room for safety improvements.

6. The Conference affirms that it is in the interests of all States that the maritime transportation of radioactive materials be conducted in compliance with international standards of safety, security and environmental protection. The Conference calls on those directly engaged in the maritime transportation of such radioactive materials to continue to provide relevant information, consistent with physical security and safety requirements, to potentially affected States. The Conference welcomes the November 1997 decision by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to incorporate the Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships (INF Code) into the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

7. The Conference urges all States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to become party to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and to the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

Spent fuel and radioactive waste

8. The Conference notes that a major issue in the debate over the use of nuclear technologies is the safety of the management of spent fuel and of radioactive waste. The Conference notes the conclusion of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and encourages States that have not yet taken the necessary steps to become party to the Convention, to do so. The Conference underlines the importance of applying the standards established by the Joint Convention to the management and storage of spent fuel and radioactive waste from military as well as civilian activities.

9. The Conference commends the efforts of IAEA in waste management, and calls upon IAEA, in view of the increasing importance of all aspects of nuclear waste management, to strengthen its efforts in this field. It endorses the IAEA programmes to assist Member States in this area through, *inter alia*, safety standards for the handling of radioactive waste, peer reviews and technical assistance activities, for example the Waste Management Assessment and Technical Review Programme (WATRP).

Liability

10. The Conference notes the adoption of the 1997 Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. The Conference further notes that the parties to those instruments have urged all States that have not done so to take the necessary steps also to accede to those instruments. The Conference notes that effective international liability mechanisms are essential to provide compensation for any nuclear-related damage that may occur during the transportation of irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level nuclear waste.
