

Information Circular

INFCIRC/706

Date: 31 May 2007

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication received from the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria with regard to the Austrian proposal on the Multilateralization of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

1. The Agency has received a communication dated 10 May 2007 from the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, attaching a paper on the Multilateralization of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle.
2. As requested in that communication, the paper is herewith circulated for the information of Member States.

institutions. An international Nuclear Fuel Bank would ensure that the nuclear fuel cycle was operated and controlled by all interested States in an equal and fair manner. It would thus no longer be necessary to resort to national enrichment programmes to assure supply of nuclear fuel.

Details would still have to be worked out, including the relationship to the existing safeguards system, rights and obligations of NPT-nuclear weapons states, avoidance of market distortions, safety and confidentiality requirements.

The IAEA has the necessary expertise in this field and should assist in the elaboration of a draft concept. It is now crucial for the responsible political leadership to demonstrate real commitment and vision so that this process can be launched.