



FACT SHEETS



IAEA Primer

Maximizing the contribution of nuclear technology to society while verifying its peaceful use

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's foremost forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Established as an independent organization under the United Nations (UN) in 1957¹, the IAEA represents the realization of US President Eisenhower's visionary "Atoms for Peace" speech to the UN General Assembly in 1953. He proposed the creation of an international body to both control and promote the use of atomic energy. The IAEA's broad spectrum of services and activities serves 145 Member States (as of September 2008).

The IAEA and its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way".

The Threat of Nuclear Proliferation

The IAEA implements a system of safeguards agreements to help prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. Safeguards are a set of activities by which the IAEA seeks to verify that a State is living up to its international undertakings not to use nuclear programmes for nuclear weapons purposes.

Most safeguards agreements are with States that have internationally committed themselves not to possess nuclear weapons through the global *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*, for which the IAEA is the verification authority. To date, 160 States have entered into safeguards agreements with the IAEA, submitting their nuclear programmes to the scrutiny of IAEA inspectors.

IAEA verification helps to provide assurances about the peaceful uses of nuclear materials, facilities and activities. This, in turn,

¹ The IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. Under the terms of its Statute, the IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their safeguards obligations as well as on matters relating to international peace and security.

Statute of the IAEA

"The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose."

helps to allay security concerns among States with respect to the development of nuclear weapons.

IAEA verification is further strengthened through an 'Additional Protocol' to a country's safeguards agreement. Under such a Protocol, States are required to provide the IAEA with broader information on all aspects of its nuclear fuel cycle related activities. They must also grant the IAEA wider access rights and enable it to use the most advanced verification technologies.

Safeguards activities take place routinely at more than 900 facilities worldwide, including nuclear power plants, research reactors, fuel related facilities and storage locations.

Nuclear Technology for Development

The IAEA also works to foster the role of nuclear science and technology in sustainable development. This involves both advancing and employing knowledge to tackle pressing worldwide challenges — hunger, disease, natural resources management, environmental pollution, energy production and climate change. Part of the IAEA's work relates to nuclear power, including its safety and waste management, and ensuring that nuclear technology is being used only for peaceful purposes.



Through research and technical cooperation projects, the IAEA facilitates the transfer of nuclear technology to Member States for use in medical, agricultural, industrial, water management and other applications. This contributes to the goals of sustainable development and protection of the environment. The IAEA has scientific laboratories where training and research are carried out in support of activities.

Nuclear Safety and Security

The future role of nuclear energy depends on a consistent, demonstrated record of safety in all applications. The IAEA's nuclear safety programme concentrates on providing standards for the safety of nuclear installations and radioactive sources, safe transport of radioactive materials and management of radioactive waste.

Although the IAEA is not an international regulatory body, its nuclear safety efforts are directed towards creating agreed multilateral norms. These are increasingly important mechanisms for improving nuclear safety, radiation safety and waste safety around the world. IAEA safety recommendations are used by many countries as a basis for domestic standards and regulations. They include guidance for the siting, design and operation of nuclear power plants. The IAEA also performs safety evaluations on request, including on-site review of nuclear power plants by international expert teams.

In areas of nuclear security, the IAEA is helping Member States to be better prepared to combat the risk of nuclear terrorism. Among the key priorities of the IAEA Nuclear Security Fund are: to increase nuclear security through adequate physical protection and proper regulatory controls; effective interdiction of illicit trafficking in nuclear and radioactive material; integration of nuclear safety and security systems; and readiness for implementing emergency response plans.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors generally meets five times per year. It examines and makes recommendations to the General Conference on the IAEA's accounts, programme and budget, and considers applications for membership. It also approves safeguards agreements and the publication of the IAEA's safety standards, and has responsibility for appointing the Director General with the approval of the General Conference. In case of a country's non-compliance with its safeguards commitments, the Board decides upon further steps, ranging from a call for clarification to a possible referral to the United Nations Security Council.

General Conference

The General Conference, consisting of all Member States, meets once a year to consider, among other things, the Board of Governors report for the previous year, to approve the accounts, programme and budget, and to approve any applications for membership. It has the authority to request from the Board reports on any questions relating to the functions of the IAEA. During its regular annual session, the Conference conducts a general debate on the IAEA's policies and programme and examines a variety of matters brought to its attention by the Board, the Director General and individual Member States.

Secretariat

With over 2300 professional and support staff, the IAEA Secretariat carries out programmes and activities approved by the Agency's policy-making organs. The Secretariat is headed by the Director General, who is the chief administrative officer and is appointed for a term of four years. He is assisted by Deputy Directors General, heading six departments:

Technical Cooperation

Technology transfer and sustainable development

Nuclear Energy

Nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste management

Nuclear Safety and Security

Nuclear, radiation and waste safety, and nuclear security

Nuclear Sciences and Applications

Uses of nuclear technology in health, agriculture, industry and other fields

Safeguards

Verification of peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Management

Budget and finance, legal advice and administrative support, public information

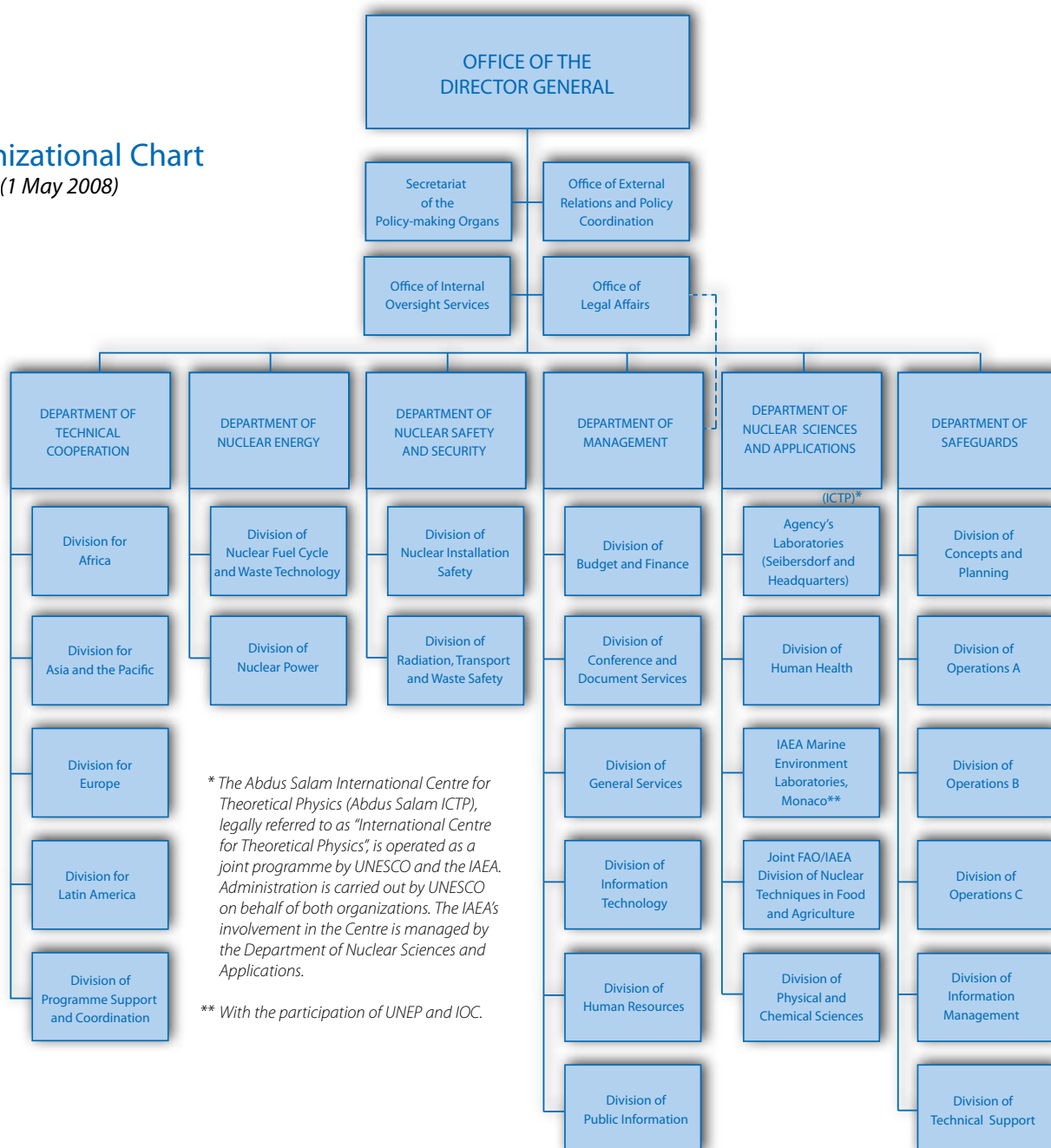


Organization and Financial Resources

The policy-making organs of the IAEA are the Board of Governors and the General Conference. The General Conference is composed of representatives of all IAEA Member States. The Board of Governors has 35 members, of which 13 are designated by the Board and 22 are elected by the General Conference. The Secretariat, which is headed by the Director General, is charged with the responsibility of implementing the IAEA's programme after it has been approved by the Board and the General Conference.

IAEA financial resources fall into two categories: the regular budget and voluntary contributions. The level of total resources for the 2008–2009 timeframe amounts to €450 million, of which €150 million comes from voluntary contributions, mainly from Member States.

Organizational Chart (1 May 2008)





Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency

AFGHANISTAN,
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

ALBANIA

ALGERIA

ANGOLA

ARGENTINA

ARMENIA

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRIA

AZERBAIJAN

BANGLADESH

BELARUS

BELGIUM

BELIZE

BENIN

BOLIVIA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BOTSWANA

BRAZIL

BULGARIA

BURKINA FASO

CAMEROON

CANADA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CHAD

CHILE

CHINA

COLOMBIA

COSTA RICA

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

CROATIA

CUBA

CYPRUS

CZECH REPUBLIC

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

OF THE CONGO

DENMARK

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ECUADOR

EGYPT

EL SALVADOR

ERITREA

ESTONIA

ETHIOPIA

FINLAND

FRANCE

GABON

GEORGIA

GERMANY

GHANA

GREECE

GUATEMALA

HAITI

HOLY SEE

HONDURAS

HUNGARY

ICELAND

INDIA

INDONESIA

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

IRAQ

IRELAND

ISRAEL

ITALY

JAMAICA

JAPAN

JORDAN

KAZAKHSTAN

KENYA

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

KUWAIT

KYRGYZSTAN

LATVIA

LEBANON

LIBERIA

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

LIECHTENSTEIN

LITHUANIA

LUXEMBOURG

MADAGASCAR

MALAWI

MALAYSIA

MALI

MALTA

MARSHALL ISLANDS

MAURITANIA,

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

MAURITIUS

MEXICO

MONACO

MONGOLIA

MONTENEGRO

MOROCCO

MOZAMBIQUE

MYANMAR

NAMIBIA

NEPAL

NETHERLANDS

NEW ZEALAND

NICARAGUA

NIGER

NIGERIA

NORWAY

PAKISTAN

PALAU

PANAMA

PARAGUAY

PERU

PHILIPPINES

POLAND

PORTUGAL

QATAR

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SAUDI ARABIA

SENEGAL

SERBIA

SEYCHELLES

SIERRA LEONE

SINGAPORE

SLOVAKIA

SLOVENIA

SOUTH AFRICA

SPAIN

SRI LANKA

SUDAN

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

TAJIKISTAN

THAILAND

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

TUNISIA

TURKEY

UGANDA

UKRAINE

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UNITED KINGDOM OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND

NORTHERN IRELAND

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

URUGUAY

UZBEKISTAN

VENEZUELA,

BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF

VIETNAM

YEMEN

ZAMBIA

ZIMBABWE