

MEMBER STATES MEETS AT IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

High-level delegates from IAEA Member States are meeting in Vienna this September for the 43rd regular session of the IAEA General Conference. Sessions begin Monday, 27 September, at the Austria Center. Delegates are addressing global issues related to nuclear safety, verification, and technology transfer.

Items on the provisional agenda include measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, and waste safety;

strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Protocol; measures against illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and other radioactive sources; application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East; implementation of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; implementation of United Nations Security Council

resolutions relating to Iraq; and production of potable water economically, including nuclear desalination of seawater.

As in years past, day-by-day information on the Conference will be available over the IAEA's *WorldAtom* Internet services at www.iaea.org. Accessible information includes press releases, conference documents, summaries of statements, adopted resolutions, and archives of past Conferences.

SCIENTIFIC FORUM LOOKS AT NUCLEAR ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

More than 16% of the world's electricity is produced by nuclear power plants. But nuclear's growth has slowed at a time of increasing interest in energy and environmental issues central to sustainable development.

In September 1999, the world's leading nuclear and energy authorities are meeting in Vienna at a Scientific Forum that will focus on nuclear power's role in the context of sustainable development goals. Meetings begin during the week of the IAEA General Conference.

The Forum is topical for various reasons. The 9th Session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-9) will be held in 2001, focusing on energy issues. Secondly, the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Framework Convention of Climate Change (FCCC) and various countries party to the FCCC are expected to take important decisions over the next two years concerning preferred energy strategies to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gases. So far, most of the debate has focused on energy efficiency improvements, clean fossil technologies, and renewable energy technologies. Nuclear power has generally been overlooked, even though its use for electricity generation already avoids the release into the atmosphere of approximately 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Forum presentations are intended to help policymakers formulate positions on issues related

to energy demand and supply and the sustainability of energy options, including nuclear power. The exchange of views also will be helpful to the Agency's own report to CSD-9, and to identifying major issues that need to be addressed.

Forum sessions begin on Tuesday, 28 September. The first session covers three topics: world energy outlook; sustainable development and its impact on future energy patterns; and economic development and electricity. The day's second session covers economics and externalities; comparing electricity-generating options; and public information. On 29 September, the third session will cover three additional topics: nuclear power's role for countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; its possible role in developing countries; and its role in transition economies, including countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The session will be followed by a concluding panel discussion on energy and environmental issues and the role of international cooperation.

A report from the Scientific Forum is foreseen to the General Conference that summarizes discussions. It also is expected to sum up the consensus reached and include recommendations on future directions in international co-operation. The report and keynote papers will be accessible on the IAEA's *WorldAtom* Internet services at www.iaea.org.

**ORGANIZATION OF
AFRICAN UNITY &
IAEA PARTNERSHIP**

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and IAEA have agreed to expand their partnership through cooperative activities in fields of animal production and health, and the control and eradication of key insect pests of livestock. The two organizations recently signed a Framework for Strategic Cooperation covering the period 1999-2001. The agreed approach and programme of work will contribute further to the IAEA's new strategy for technical cooperation that aims to increasingly contribute to the achievement of major sustainable development priorities in countries and promote tangible socio-economic impacts. Issues related to animal production and health are of pan-African concern. The OAU/IAEA Framework for Strategic Cooperation builds upon and strengthens the organizations' joint efforts, including successful cooperative projects between the Agency and the OAU's InterAfrican Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR). It specifically covers activities related to the control and eradication of the tsetse fly; the monitoring of animal diseases; and the productive and nutritional improvement of livestock. Planned for September 1999 was a joint OAU/IBAR/IAEA workshop in Mombasa, Kenya, on policy harmonization within regional programmes, with special emphasis on technology transfer and animal disease control.

**STRENGTHENED SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM:
STATUS OF ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS**

More States have accepted Additional Protocols for the Agency's application of strengthened safeguards. The latest status report, as of September 1999, includes:

Armenia	signed 29 Sept. 1997
Australia	signed 23 Sept. 1997; ratified 12 Dec. 1997
Austria (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Belgium (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Bulgaria	signed 24 Sept. 1998
Canada	signed 24 Sept. 1998
China	signed 31 Dec. 1998
Croatia	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Cyprus	signed 29 July, 1999
Denmark (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Finland (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
France (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Georgia	signed 29 Sept. 1997
Germany (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Ghana	signed 12 June 1998
Greece (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Holy See	signed and ratified, 24 Sept. 1998
Hungary	signed 26 Nov. 1998
Ireland (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Italy (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Japan	signed 4 Dec. 1998
Jordan	signed and ratified, 28 July 1998
Korea, Rep. of	signed 21 June 1999
Lithuania	signed 11 March 1998
Luxembourg (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Monaco	(approved by IAEA Board, 25 Nov. 1998)
Netherlands (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
New Zealand	signed and ratified 24 Sept. 1998
Norway	(approved by the IAEA Board; 24 March 1999)
Philippines	signed 30 Sept. 1997
Poland	signed 30 Sept. 1997
Portugal (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Romania	signed 11 June 1999
Slovakia	(approved by IAEA Board, 14 Sept. 1998)
Slovenia	signed 26 Nov. 1998
Spain (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Sweden (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
UK (EU)	signed 22 Sept. 1998
Uruguay	signed 29 Sept. 1997
USA	signed 12 June 1998
Uzbekistan	signed 22 Sept. 1998; ratified 21 Dec. 1998