



International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

10–14 February 2020

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Introduction

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is organizing the third International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020) — at its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 14 February 2020.

The ICONS 2020 conference will have two main parts:

- A ministerial segment which will provide an opportunity for ministers to deliver messages on achievements and adopt a Ministerial Declaration; and
- A scientific and technical programme comprising high-level policy discussions on the overall themes central to nuclear security and parallel technical sessions on specialized scientific and technical, legal and regulatory issues concerning nuclear security.

The IAEA has provided, upon request, assistance to Member States and supported their national efforts to establish and strengthen nuclear security. In March 2002, the IAEA's Board of Governors approved the first comprehensive action plan to protect against nuclear terrorism. Further Nuclear Security Plans were approved in 2005, 2009, 2013 and 2017. Member States have consistently recognized the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international cooperation in nuclear security. The objective of the IAEA Nuclear Security Programme, as set out in the current Nuclear Security Plan 2018–2021 (GOV/2017/34), is:

- To contribute to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security by establishing comprehensive nuclear security guidance and, upon request, promoting its use through peer reviews, advisory services and capacity building, including education and training;

- To assist in adherence to, and implementation of, relevant international legal instruments, and in strengthening the international cooperation and coordination of assistance; and
- To play the central role and enhance international cooperation in nuclear security, in response to the priorities of Member States expressed through the decisions and resolutions of the IAEA's Policy-Making Organs.

The conference will provide a global forum to discuss ways to sustain and strengthen nuclear security worldwide, and to identify future developments. The conference will cover areas that are attributable to the security of nuclear and other radioactive material under and out of regulatory control. The outputs from the conference will be used in the preparation of the next IAEA Nuclear Security Plan, which will cover the period 2022–2025.

The previous conference, held in 2016, attracted about 2 100 registered participants from 139 Member States, 47 of which were represented at the ministerial level, in addition to 29 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

B. Purpose and Objectives

The conference will provide a forum for ministers, policymakers, senior officials and nuclear security experts to formulate and exchange views on experiences and achievements, current approaches, future developments and priorities for nuclear security.

The conference will:

- Raise awareness to maintain and further strengthen national nuclear security regimes as well as international cooperation in strengthening nuclear security globally;
- Review the current status of nuclear security efforts, existing approaches and trends, and highlight areas that may need more focused attention including technological dimensions;
- Promote IAEA nuclear security guidance and other international guidelines, and their use by States;
- Promote the sharing of information and good practices in nuclear security while protecting sensitive information;
- Reaffirm and support the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in leading the coordination of international activities in the field of nuclear security, while avoiding duplication and overlap;
- Highlight and promote the IAEA's efforts and programmes on the nuclear security relevant instruments of the IAEA and the United Nations; and
- Discuss further enhancements of IAEA nuclear security activities and their sustainability.

Participants are encouraged not to discuss any sensitive nuclear security information.

C. Structure, Themes and Topics

The conference programme will include a ministerial segment, which will provide an opportunity for ministers to deliver brief national statements and to adopt a Ministerial Declaration. The scientific and technical programme will commence on the second day of the conference and will include an opening plenary session, high-level policy discussions, parallel streams of technical sessions, and a concluding plenary session with a President's report.

Each high-level policy discussion session will feature invited speakers and a concluding panel discussion. Each technical session will include presentations on selected papers relating to topical areas identified through the submission of synopses. A panel discussion will conclude each technical session.

The conference programme will also include poster sessions and interactive content presentations. Sufficient time will be provided throughout the conference for discussion and interaction with participants.

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the overall themes for the conference, including the topics that will be discussed in the high-level policy discussion sessions, will be the following:

- International legally and non-legally binding instruments for nuclear security
 - International legal instruments for nuclear security, including universalization of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
 - Promotion of non-binding nuclear security instruments and principles
- Role of the IAEA in nuclear security
 - Role of the IAEA in the implementation of international instruments related to nuclear security
 - Central role of the IAEA in coordinating efforts and technical support to States, upon their request, for strengthening nuclear security
 - Future focus areas and activities, particularly for the Nuclear Security Plan 2022–2025
 - Coordination measures within the IAEA for the effectiveness of its nuclear security programme
 - Nuclear security and the IAEA's role, considering the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- National nuclear security regimes
 - Physical protection as fundamental to nuclear security
 - Security of nuclear and radioactive material under and out of regulatory control
 - Nuclear security integrated approaches within the national nuclear security framework and linkages with relevant national initiatives
 - Regulatory oversight for nuclear security: practices and challenges
 - Nuclear safety and security interface
 - Sustainability of nuclear security activities
 - IAEA technical support to States for response to nuclear security events including national frameworks
- Emerging technologies and the digital age
 - New and emerging technologies: opportunities, nuclear security aspects and IAEA assistance to Member States
 - New and emerging technologies for physical protection
 - Role of information and computer security for nuclear security
- International cooperation in information exchange, sharing of good practices and broader experience to enhance nuclear security
 - Sustainability of nuclear security efforts globally
 - International cooperation success stories
 - Capacity building, human resource development and enhancements for nuclear security
 - Role of capacity building centres at the national and regional level
 - Role of the IAEA in information exchange on nuclear security

- Coordination of activities with other organizations and initiatives to avoid duplication
- IAEA Information Circulars on nuclear security
- Fostering a culture of nuclear security

Topics for Technical Session:

The final determination of the number and scope of the technical sessions will be based on the nature and number of synopses received. It is anticipated that the technical sessions may deal with diverse subjects as listed in the Appendix. The synopses on the technical topics listed therein should be submitted following the guidance given in Section F.

D. Target Audience

The conference is aimed at ministers, senior government officials, high-level staff from agencies involved in policy making for, and managing, nuclear security, and technical and legal experts working in all areas of nuclear security. The conference is also intended to attract industry and civil society representatives, including non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. The IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of women, early career professionals and individuals from developing countries.

E. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the conference are requested to register **online in advance** through the conference web page (see Section O). **In addition**, they must send a completed Participation Form (Form A) and, if applicable, the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and/or Grant Application Form (Form C) as soon as possible to a competent official authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority), or to one of the organizations invited to participate for subsequent transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org).

A participant will be accepted only if the above documents are transmitted through the competent national authority of a Member State of the IAEA or by an organization invited to participate.

Participants whose official designations have been received by the IAEA will receive from the IAEA further information approximately three months before the opening of the conference. This information will also be posted on the conference web page (see Section O).

F. Synopses, Papers and Proceedings

Concise papers on topics falling within the scope of the conference (see Appendix) may be submitted as contributions to the conference. All papers must present original work and must not have been published elsewhere.

F.1. Submission of Synopses

Anyone wishing to present a paper at the conference — either orally or in the form of a poster — must submit a synopsis of between 400 and 800 words in electronic format through the conference’s web browser-based file submission system (IAEA-INDICO). Paper copies cannot be accepted.

Instructions on how to upload the synopsis to IAEA-INDICO will be available on the conference web page (see Section O) as of 31 January 2019. The synopses must be submitted through this system between **1 February 2019** and **31 May 2019**. No other form of submission will be accepted.

In addition, authors must submit the following two forms to their appropriate governmental authority (see Section E) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms, available on the conference web page, must be received by the IAEA no later than **14 June 2019**:

- Participation Form (Form A)
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)

IMPORTANT: The electronically received synopses will be considered by the Programme Committee only if these two forms have been received by IAEA through the established official channels (see Section E).

F.2. Acceptance of Synopses

Given the number of synopses anticipated and the need to provide ample time for discussion, the number of papers that can be accepted for oral presentation is limited. Authors who prefer to present their papers as posters or interactive content presentations are requested to indicate this preference on Form A and through IAEA-INDICO.

Authors will be notified by **30 September 2019** as to whether their papers have been accepted.

F.3. Submission of Full Paper and Presentations

Only authors of papers selected for oral presentation are requested to submit a full paper. Full papers must be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the full papers will be made available on INDICO. The deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as both PDF and Word files is **29 November 2019**.

Authors of papers selected for oral presentation, interactive content presentation and poster presentation are requested to submit their presentation through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of presentations will be made available on IAEA-INDICO. The deadline for electronic submission of presentations as both PDF and PowerPoint files is **20 December 2019**.

IMPORTANT: The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of papers. Authors are encouraged to submit papers as early as possible.

F.4. Conference Proceedings

The proceedings containing summaries of the plenary and technical sessions as well as full papers presented at the conference will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the conference. Copies of the proceedings can be ordered, at a special discounted price, during or after the conference.

G. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee will be charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Such assistance may be offered upon specific request to normally one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit their applications to the IAEA to this effect through their competent national authority. Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted through the competent national authority by **14 June 2019**;
2. Accompanied by a completed and signed Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by a completed Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually **covers only part of the cost of attendance**.

H. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme will be posted on the IAEA web page for the conference (see Section O) as soon as possible. The final programme and the Book of Extended Synopses will be made available on the conference web page and the IAEA Conferences and Meetings app.

I. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretaries (see Section N) by email at ICONS2020@iaea.org by **15 May 2019**.

J. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. Simultaneous interpretation during the ministerial session will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Interpretation will not be provided for technical sessions.

K. Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels which are offering a reduced rate for conference participants will be listed on the conference web page (see Section O). Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-bookings and no shows.

Detailed information on accommodation and other relevant matters will be made available on the conference web page as soon as possible.

L. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least eight weeks before they travel to Austria. Designated participants will be required to submit a letter of invitation in support of their visa application. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

M. Key Deadlines and Dates

Opening of synopsis submission through IAEA-INDICO	1 February 2019
Electronic submission of synopsis through IAEA-INDICO	31 May 2019
Submission of Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) (together with Participation Form (Form A)) through the competent national authority	14 June 2019
Submission of Grant Application Form (Form C) together with Participation Form (Form A) through the competent national authority	14 June 2019
Notification of acceptance of synopsis	30 September 2019
Electronic submission of full papers (10 pages maximum)	29 November 2019
Submission of oral presentations, interactive content presentations and posters	20 December 2019

N. Conference Secretariat

General contact details:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretariat of the conference and correspondence on administrative matters to the Conference Services Section.

O. Conference Web Page

Please visit the following web page regularly for new information regarding this conference:

<https://www.iaea.org/events/nuclear-security-conference-2020>

Appendix: Topics for Technical Sessions

Physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive material and facilities

- Nuclear security of nuclear fuel cycle facilities: emerging technologies and associated challenges and complex threats;
- Research reactor security;
- Design basis threat and threat assessment: prevention and protection;
- Physical protection systems: evaluation and assessment;
- Newcomers to nuclear power and research reactors: opportunities and challenges;
- Nuclear security of new nuclear technologies (e.g., small modular reactors);
- Security by design, including in newcomer countries;
- Transport of nuclear and other radioactive material: practices, challenges and regulatory issues;
- Nuclear security of decommissioned facilities and the facilities being decommissioned;
- International Physical Protection Advisory Service: good practices and lessons learned;
- Application of the graded approach and defence in depth to nuclear security;
- The Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material review conference in 2021;
- Minimization, on a voluntary basis, of high enriched uranium within civilian stocks and where technically and economically feasible;
- Risk-informed approach to the security of radioactive material in use and in storage;
- Insider threats;
- Nuclear security vulnerability assessments;
- Nuclear material accounting and control; and
- National accounting and control measures of radioactive materials.

Nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control

- Building and maintaining nuclear security detection architecture;
- Preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material;
- International Nuclear Security Advisory Service for nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control;
- Detection technology development and performance testing;
- Coordinated response to nuclear security events;
- Nuclear security as part of the security of major public events;
- Nuclear forensics;
- Nuclear security in major urban areas; and
- The IAEA's technical support for States that takes into consideration complex threats and challenges including geographical condition

Cross-cutting/Overarching topics

- National nuclear security regulations;
- Capacity building (e.g. human resource development and sustainability, nuclear security education and job-specific performance training including for newcomer countries);
- Role of Nuclear Security Support Centers to support and sustain national nuclear security regimes;
- Implementation of national legislative and regulatory frameworks, and international instruments;
- Information and computer security considerations for nuclear security;
- Information exchange for incidents of nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control;
- Nuclear security culture in practice with a focus on sustainability;
- Nuclear safety and security interfaces;
- Emergency preparedness and response and nuclear security interfaces;
- Establishing and formalizing nuclear security processes into integrated management systems;
- Use of IAEA and other international guidelines for building national nuclear security regimes;
- National nuclear security inspections: training of inspectors, development of procedures and managing findings;
- Good practices in the development and execution of nuclear security exercises (e.g. tabletop, drills and field exercises);
- Identification of national needs through the development of an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan;
- Innovative technologies to reduce nuclear security risks and improve cost effectiveness, where feasible;
- Risks and benefits to nuclear security from innovations in other fields, including artificial intelligence and big data;
- Advances in nuclear security research and development; international cooperation on nuclear security research; and
- Contribution of industry to nuclear security.