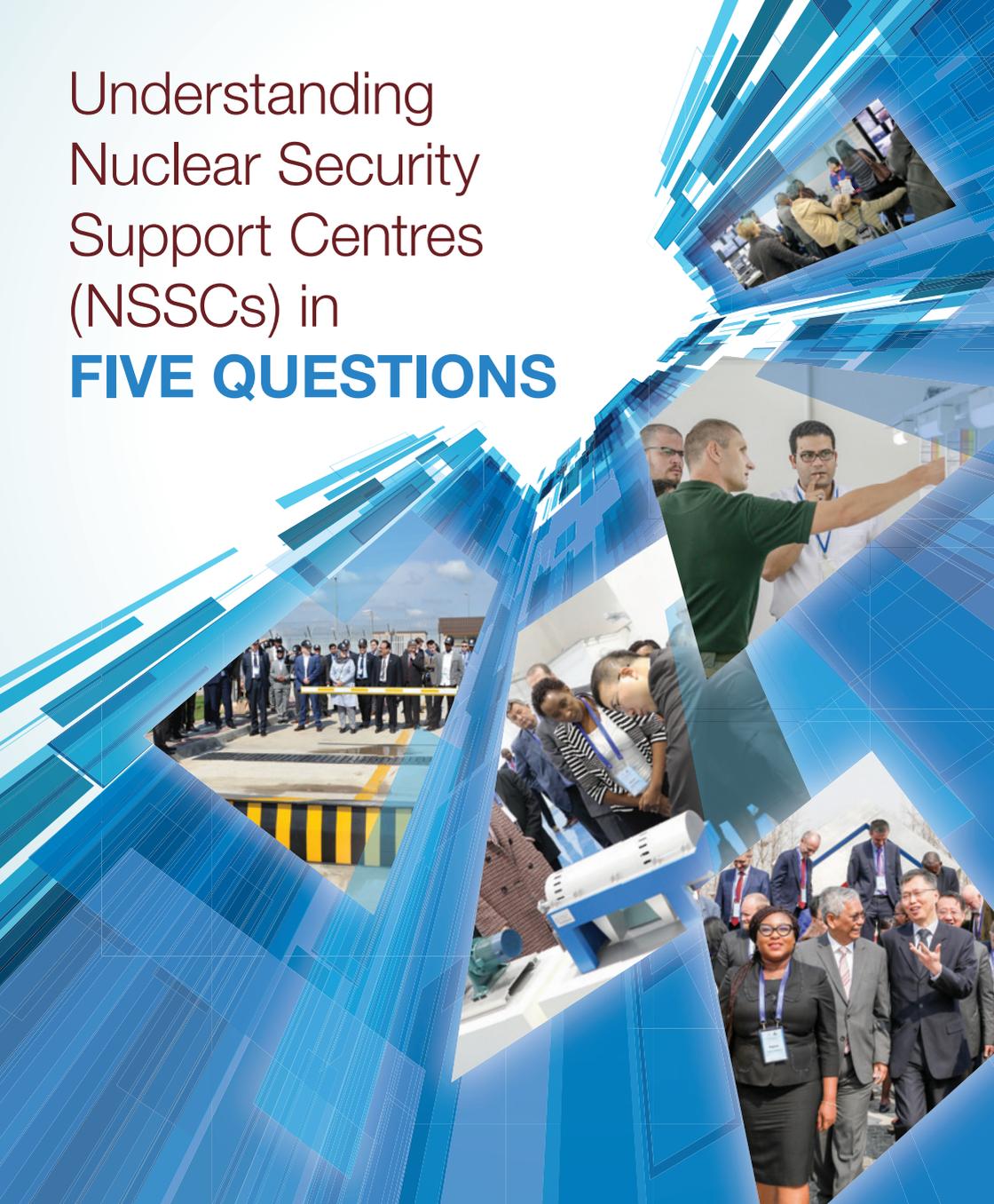


Understanding Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs) in **FIVE QUESTIONS**



International Network for
Nuclear Security Training
and Support Centres
NSSC Network

What is a Nuclear Security Support Centre (NSSC)?

The role of an NSSC is to support competent authorities, authorized persons, and other organizations with nuclear security responsibilities in sustaining the national nuclear security regime, at both the national and operational levels, through programmes in human resource development, technical support, and scientific support. In this role, an NSSC also fosters nuclear security culture and enhances national coordination and collaboration among the various competent authorities involved in nuclear security.

The NSSC concept is outlined in the IAEA publication *Establishing and Operating a National Nuclear Security Support Centre* (revised TECDOC 1734), which emphasizes the importance of taking a systematic approach to analysing needs and developing resources for nuclear security sustainability. Proper analysis of national needs and evaluation of programme effectiveness are cornerstones of the NSSC concept.

Not all States will require an NSSC, but if thorough analysis of national needs reveals significant gaps in training and technical and scientific support for nuclear security, and if sufficient resources and stakeholder support are identified, then establishing an NSSC can help reduce these gaps and build long-term national capacity.



How does the IAEA provide support to States in establishing and operating an NSSC?

The IAEA offers bilateral support to States, upon request, that are interested in establishing an NSSC or improving the effectiveness of an existing centre, based on identified needs and subject to the availability of resources.

The IAEA also plays a central coordinating role in facilitating international and regional cooperation among states with an NSSC or those having an interest in developing a centre through the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network).



What is the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network)?

The NSSC Network was established by consensus in February 2012 at a meeting of IAEA Member States in Vienna. The Network's mission is "To contribute to the global efforts to enhance nuclear security through an effective and collaborative network of nuclear security training and support centres." The objectives of the Network are to encourage cooperation and support joint activities among NSSCs, identify and document best practices for NSSCs, and strengthen information sharing among NSSCs.

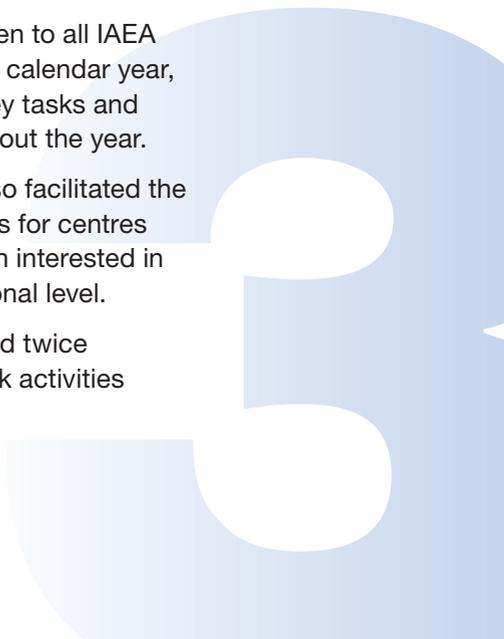
The Network conducts activities in support of these objectives through three working groups:

- Working Group A: Coordination and Collaboration;
- Working Group B: Best Practices; and
- Working Group C: Information Sharing, Promotion, and Outreach.

The Network holds an Annual Meeting open to all IAEA Member States in the first quarter of each calendar year, as well as smaller meetings to advance key tasks and objectives of the Working Groups throughout the year.

The IAEA and the NSSC Network have also facilitated the creation of regional or sub-regional groups for centres within the Network that have expressed an interest in building stronger cooperation on the regional level.

The NSSC Network newsletter is published twice annually and provides updates on Network activities and upcoming events.



What are the benefits of being a member of the NSSC Network?

Becoming a member of the NSSC Network provides States with the opportunity to be a part of the primary international framework for cooperation among NSSCs.

Network members share information and experiences with States that are planning to establish or have already established a centre. Members also stay current on innovative approaches and developments in training, equipment maintenance, and expert support for nuclear security.

Network members are invited to participate in NSSC Network member-only activities, including:

- Expert consultancy meetings
- Workshops, training, and capacity building events
- Technical exchange visits
- Regional cooperation frameworks
- Documenting good practices
- Developing information sharing and outreach tools

The activities of the NSSC Network are supported by the NSSC User Group on the IAEA's Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC). The User Group is a secure online platform that allows Network Members and the Secretariat to share information about their activities, to upload and exchange documents, and to collaborate on work during the intersession periods.

How do States become members of the NSSC Network?

NSSC Network Membership is open to all IAEA Member States. Requests for Membership should be sent through official channels to the IAEA.

Other stakeholders involved, or planning to be involved, in the provision of training and/or technical and scientific support in the area of nuclear security may become a Network Observer with approval from the current Network Chair and the Network Members. Observers may attend and make contributions to Network meetings, but are not entitled to take part in the Network's official decision making process. Requests for Observer status should also be sent through official channels to the IAEA.





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