



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Why is the right time to discuss the interrelationships between **Safety and Sustainability?**

Webinar to introduce IAEA international conference, 02 March 2023

Anna Clark

Section Head, Waste and Environmental Safety Section

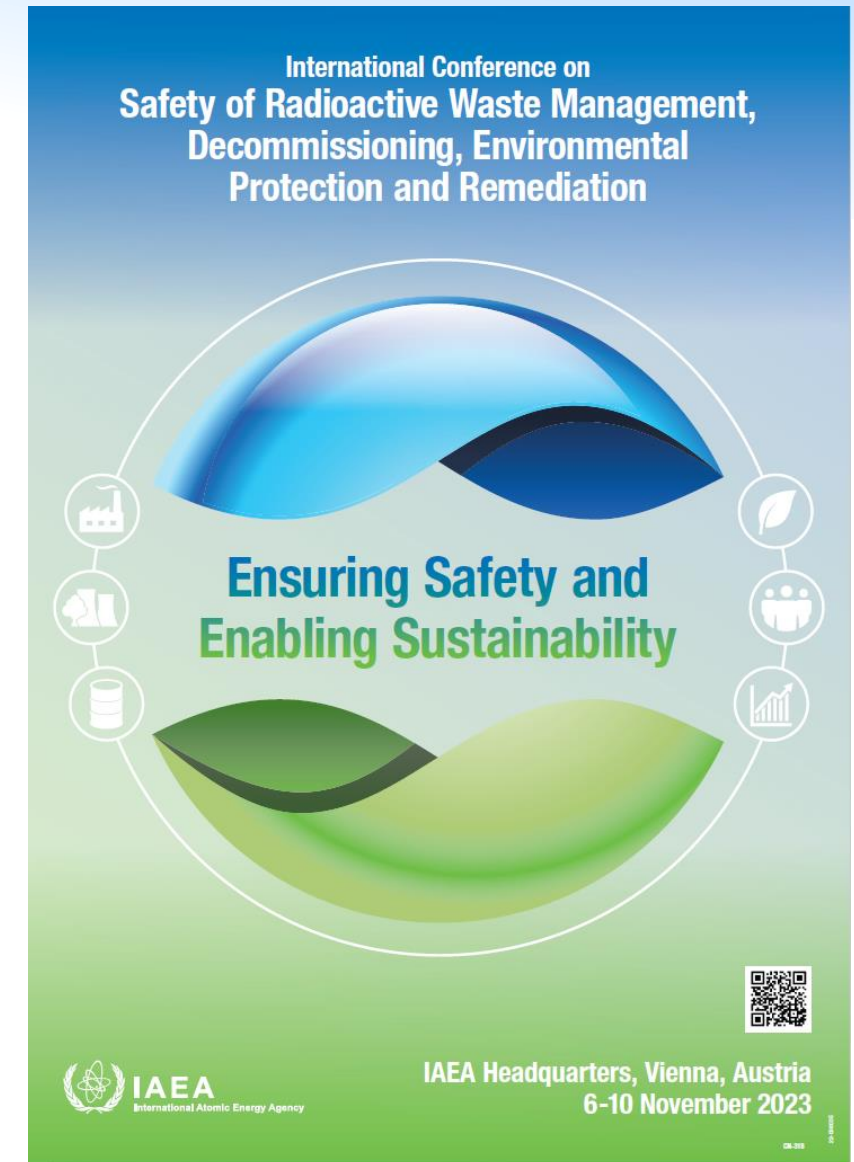
Ensuring Safety and Enabling Sustainability

Purpose of conference

The conference will provide:

a forum for exchanging information, experiences, and anticipated future developments for managing the relationship between safety and sustainability

in the context of radioactive waste management, decommissioning, environmental protection, and remediation.



Why focus on sustainability?

- 17 Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- IAEA supports countries in their efforts to reach the 17 SDGs

▲ Sustainable use of nuclear science and technology contributes directly to nine SDGs



Influence of safety on sustainability

▲ Sustainable use of nuclear science and technology contributes directly to nine SDGs

▲ Nuclear technologies are not sustainable unless safe throughout their lifetime

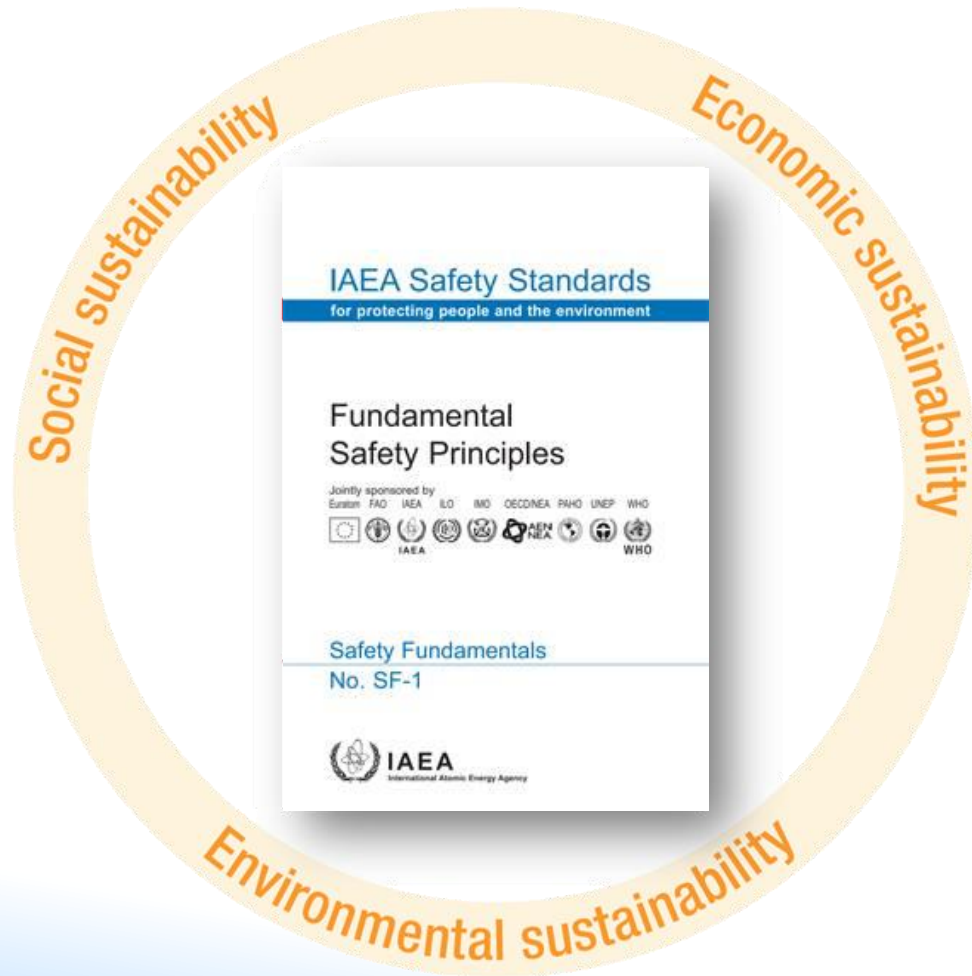


Influence of safety on sustainability

- ▲ Sustainable use of nuclear science and technology contributes directly to nine SDGs
- ▲ Nuclear technologies are not sustainable unless safe throughout their lifetime
- ▲ Safe management of radioactive waste, environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation protects life on land and life below water
- ▲ Safe management of radioactive waste, environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation contributes to recycling and reuse of materials, objects and sites



Influence of sustainability on safety



- Safety is not the only factor that contributes to sustainability
- Radiation protection principles of justification and optimization take account of economic, social and environmental factors
- Mechanisms are required to ensure interested parties are involved as appropriate in regulatory decision making

Conference themes



Introducing the **overarching concepts** of ensuring safety and enabling sustainability



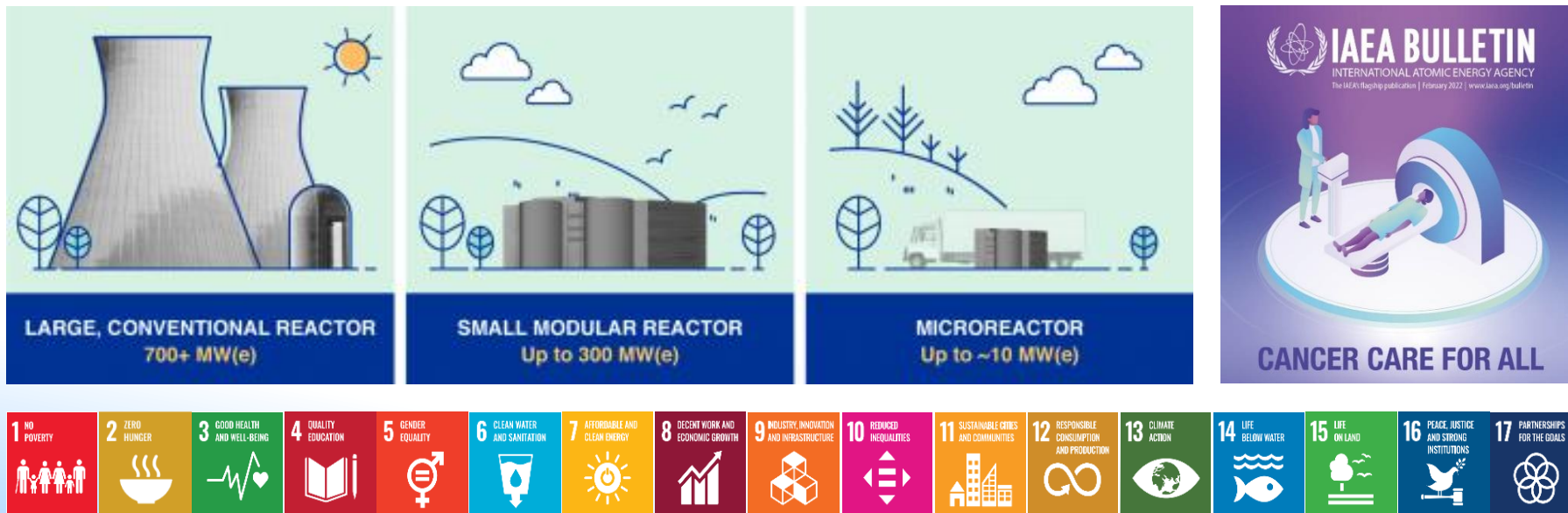
Exploring:

- concepts,
- principles,
- benefits,
- challenges

Managing the interrelationships in policy, strategy, legislation, and regulation

Exploring questions such as:

- How does the need for safe radioactive waste management feature in national policies for adopting nuclear science and technology?
- How is sustainability embedded in national programmes for decommissioning and remediation?
- How does the concept of sustainability influence regulation of environmental protection?



Managing the interrelationships between **safety** and **sustainability** in decision-making

Exploring questions such as:

- What tools or methods do you have for balancing safety and other aspects of sustainability in decision-making?
- What processes do you use to realise principles of radiation protection in practice when safely managing radioactive waste, environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation?



Integrating the **views of society** into decision-making

Exploring questions such as:

- What approach do you take to involving society in decisions relating to radioactive waste management, environmental protection, decommissioning or remediation?
- To what extent have the views of society influenced the optimisation of radiation protection and safety?



Practical experiences in integrating safety and sustainability



Practical experience of sustainability influencing, for example:

- controls for environmental releases
- approaches to radioactive waste management, e.g. site selection, clearance of material
- selection of a safe site end state
- pace of decommissioning
- remediation of abandoned uranium mines

Practical experience of requirements for safe management of radioactive waste, environmental protection and decommissioning influencing the implementation of nuclear science and technologies



Building capacity for ensuring safety and enabling sustainability

Exploring questions such as:

- How can safety and sustainability experts learn from each other?
- How does sustainability feature in the leadership, management, and culture for safety?



Regional and international cooperation for ensuring safety and enabling sustainability

Exploring questions such as:

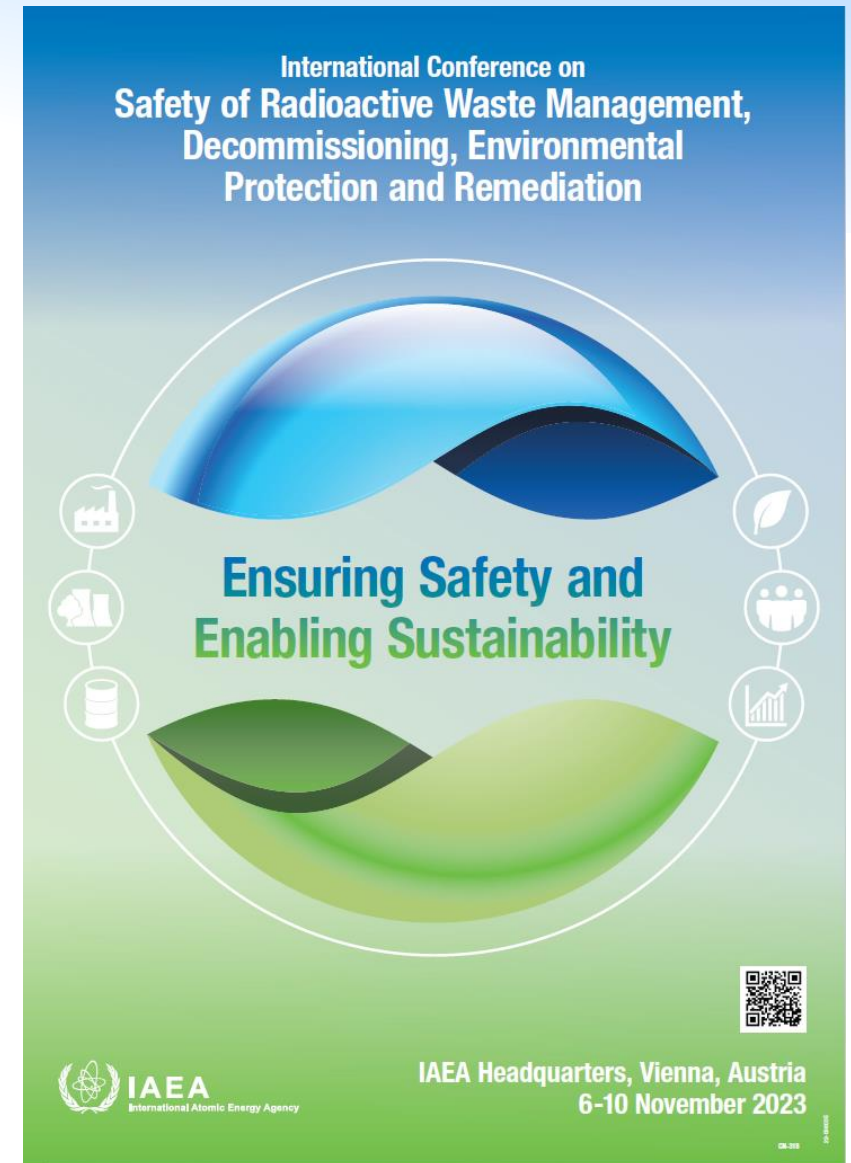
- What role can international cooperation play in improving the integration of safety and sustainability?
- What role can legal instruments and international guidance play in improving the holistic consideration of safety and sustainability?



Ensuring Safety and Enabling Sustainability

Objectives of conference

- **Initiate and assist** the necessary dialogue between the safety and sustainable development communities
- **Consider how to address** the relevant interrelationships in an integrated way
- **Identify practical approaches** on how to manage the interrelationships in decision-making, from policymaking to implementation





IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Thank you!

