



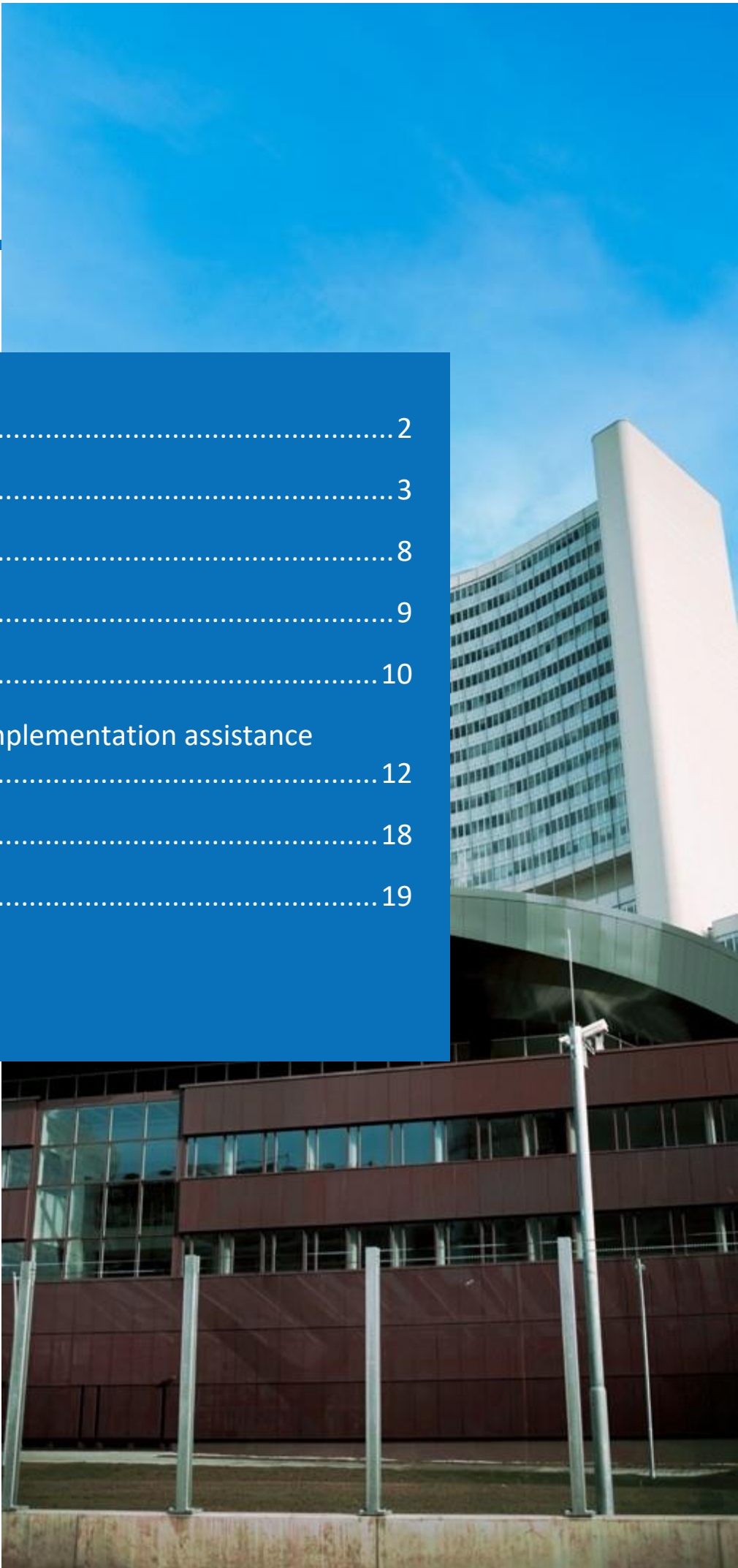
JOINT CONVENTION

on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

NEWS

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1. President's message

Dear Readers,

I look forward to the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention in March 2025 as an opportunity to return to the normal cycle of peer reviews, following the postponement of the Seventh Review Meeting from 2021 to 2022. This Eighth Review Meeting will provide an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to communally demonstrate their commitment to managing their spent fuel and radioactive waste safely, by learning from the good practices of others and by sharing their own good practices.

As we stand at the forefront of a period of growth and innovation in the nuclear sector to address climate change, the Joint Convention must rise to the occasion. One of my priorities for the future of the Joint Convention is to improve awareness of its importance and the role it plays in protecting people and the environment. Increasing the number of IAEA Member States that are parties to the Convention will strengthen our global efforts for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. In this vein, I welcome the accession of the Republics of Türkiye and Iraq to the Convention since the previous Review Meeting.

I am especially interested in increasing participation in the Joint Convention among emerging nations. Every country, regardless of size or resources, has a role to play when it comes to safeguarding our environment for generations to come. Even if they do not have spent fuel, every IAEA Member State has radioactive waste, the safe management of which is needed to protect individuals, society and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation, now and in the future. I encourage all IAEA Member States that are not yet Contracting Parties to join the Convention.

To this end, I have approached Egypt, India and Pakistan to invite them to observe the opening Plenary of the Eighth Review Meeting and that part of the closing Plenary where the Summary Report is adopted. I have also approached Lebanon and the Philippines with the same offer, since they are the only two signatories that have not yet become Contracting Parties.

On another topic, one measure of the success of a Review Meeting is being able to achieve consensus on a Summary Report. I call on all Contracting Parties at the Eighth Review Meeting to focus on the technical topic of the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. I am aware of certain ongoing geopolitical challenges that may seek to disturb our peer review, but I expect Contracting Parties to make every effort to focus the Review Meeting on our shared goal.

As a final note, I draw your attention to the addition of a database of good practices awarded at the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Review Meetings to the [Joint Convention secure website](#). You can find the link in the banner at the top of the Home page. Please bear these in mind when considering whether or not to award a good practice to a Contracting Party at the Eighth Review Meeting.



Ramzi Jammal,
President of the Eighth Review Meeting

2. Topics of Interest

Safe disposal of category 4–5 disused sealed radioactive sources in China

Radioactive sources are widely used in industry, agriculture, medicine, research, education, and other fields, featuring multiple applications across China. In recent years, with the rapid growth of China's nuclear technology industry, the number of disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS) is also growing. In order to ensure long-term safety of both the environment and society, safe, proper and timely retrieving, conditioning and near surface disposal of category 3-5 DSRS has been successfully implemented in recent years under the surveillance of Chinese government.

According to relevant regulations in China, Category 4 and 5 DSRS should be sent to the provincial interim storage facility for storage or the producer, followed by transport to the national centralized DSRS storage facility, operated by China National Nuclear Cooperation (CNNC) Everclean Environmental Engineering Co., Ltd, licensed by the Ministry of Ecological Environment (MEE), for long-time storage.

In 2023, a demonstration-scale conditioning operation of category 4 – 5 DSRS was authorized by the MEE and carried out by CNNC Everclean Environmental Engineering Co., using a glove box and specific new and independently developed tools. Under the standard Safety Requirements for Near Surface Disposal of Disused Radioactive Sources (HJ1336-2023) issued by the MEE, more than 1000 Co-60, Cs-137 and Sr-90 DSRS were retrieved and conditioned for disposal. Lead bricks and remote-controlled operations were used to protect workers to reduce their exposure to radiation. Safe disposal of the DSRS packages was carried out in August 2024.



Fig. 1 Glove box used in conditioning DSRS



Fig.2 Remote control welding



Fig.3 DSRS packages (200L metal drum with brackets)

Disposing DSRS according to their categories based on the degree of risk posed by the nuclides and activity of the disused sealed sources is the safest way to manage the radiation risk.

The successful implementation of the demonstration-scale project marks a good beginning of DSRS disposal in China. China will keep pushing forward successive projects in its continuous effort to ensure safe management of DSRS.

An enhanced solution for declaring radioactive waste in Norway to be launched in 2025

According to the Norwegian Waste regulations, anyone who produces radioactive waste has a duty to declare the origin, content, and properties of the waste to ensure environmentally sound management when it is delivered to an authorized waste manager. Since 2017 the electronic declaration solution avfallsdeklarering.no has been in use in Norway. In collaboration with the Norwegian Environment Agency, the Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) is now working on a new enhanced solution for the electronic declaration of radioactive waste.

Several industries, enterprises, and activities produce radioactive waste in Norway, ranging from hospitals and research enterprises, through industries such as oil and gas to waste reception and disposal facilities. This waste must be declared to the relevant authorities in line with the regulations for radioactive pollution control and handling of radioactive waste.



Anyone who produces radioactive waste has a duty to declare the origin, content and properties of the waste to the authorities.

Declaring radioactive waste provides authorities with an overview of how much such waste is generated in Norway, where it originated from, and who has managed it.

Challenges with the current system for avfallsdeklarering.no

Since 2017, declaration has been done electronically through the online system at avfallsdeklarering.no¹. This is a joint system for declaring both hazardous and radioactive waste operated jointly by the Norwegian Environment Agency and DSA. This system is used by businesses subject to the requirement for declaration, as well as by authorities seeking insight into declared waste.

A total of 7 730 declarations of radioactive waste have been made since the system went live in 2017. This number includes waste that is declared in the categories of “radioactive waste” and “hazardous and radioactive waste”. The annual number of declarations varies but is on average just under 1 000 per year. This compares to the nearly 300 000 declarations per year in all categories of waste subject to the duty to declare. However, the current system has certain shortcomings, and the two agencies are now working on an enhanced solution for electronic declarations.

The current system is somewhat cumbersome, both for those making declarations and for the environmental authorities. The current search function in the solution is not easy to use. Extracting information is time consuming, and the system contains some errors that can cause incorrect calculation of activity content in radioactive sources. For DSA as the competent authority, extracting accurate data that can be used for statistics and forecasts for radioactive waste can be difficult today.

There are several examples of declarations where the total weight of



Extracting information from the declaration system, and creating different statistics, will now become easier. Also making the waste more traceable.

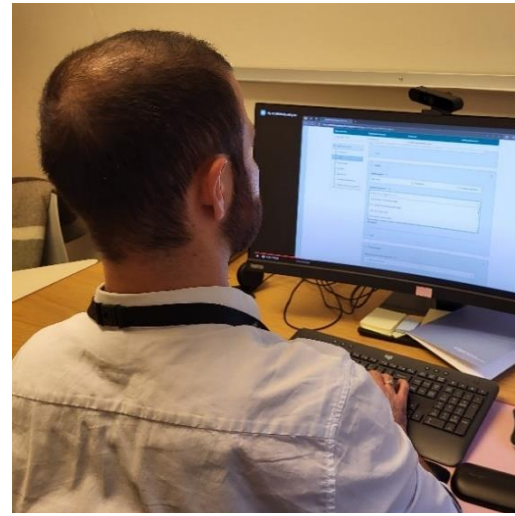
the product is much higher than the radioactive source that needs to be managed as radioactive waste, and the current system does not correctly record the total or specific activity in the waste that is being declared. For the authorities, this makes it difficult to extract data that is needed for statistics and future forecasts. Adding waste that contains new radionuclides not in previously declared, also presents a challenge for the current system to correctly process the data.

The upgraded solution will give better data for all users.

The new upgraded version of the declaration system will have a more user-friendly interface, and more functionality for both waste producers, the management facilities as well as the authorities.

There will be better traceability throughout the waste value chain from delivery to final disposal, giving the environmental authorities a better knowledge base for collating different statistics and for regulation.

The Norwegian Environment Agency is leading the work on developing the new system, and DSA is contributing with regard to the functionality particular to the declaration of radioactive waste. This extensive restructuring of the solution has a total budget of approximately 2,4 million EUR.



User involvement has been central throughout the development process.

A test version with limited functionality is scheduled to be published in November 2024. The test version will be available for selected groups of users from different industries.

More users will be gradually added to the new solution. User involvement is central, and dialogue and information meetings will be held with key users to inform, discuss experience, and propose improvements. The old solution will continue to function in a transition phase to complete ongoing declarations.

More information about the progress plan is available on the Norwegian Environment Agency's website (in Norwegian) and the full launch

of the new system is anticipated in 2025. The Norwegian report to the Eighth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management also includes information about this system.

In July 2024, the Norwegian Ministry for Climate and Environment issued the first Norwegian strategy for safe, secure and environmentally sound management of radioactive waste in Norway. This year, the DSA also published a revised prognosis for radioactive waste to be produced in Norway by the year 2100. Most of the waste to be produced in Norway in terms of volume will be NORM-waste and from decommissioning of the Norwegian nuclear research facilities. The new solution for the electronic declaration system is an important part of the implementation of the strategy for safe, secure, and environmentally sound management of radioactive waste.



The new upgraded version of the declaration system will have a more user-friendly interface, and better functionality.

¹ Translates to wastedclarations.no

Informational cooperation of CIS members on the matter of sealed radioactive sources management

The practice of exporting/importing sealed radioactive sources (SRS) is widely used throughout the world, also among the countries that are official members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) now. The countries of the Commonwealth have a common history and continue their close cooperation in the nuclear industry, particularly in the management of sealed radioactive sources. Informational cooperation between the CIS members is carried out within the framework of the relevant Agreement on Informational Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement)².

The Agreement promotes the strengthening of cooperation in the field of radiation safety in the management of radioactive sources in transboundary transportation between the Member States.

The Agreement considers the principles and provisions of Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources IAEA/CODEOC/2004 [1] and IAEA Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources IAEA/CODEOC/IMP-EXP/ 2005 [2], and provisions of Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

Communication Centers will be established for the implementation of informational cooperation. These Communication Centers should accumulate information on Category 1 and 2 SRS transported across the state border, timely exchange information on intentions to transfer SRS, on readiness to receive SRS and on the receipt of SRS between states where the Agreement has become effective (including SRS that have been decommissioned and are radioactive waste).

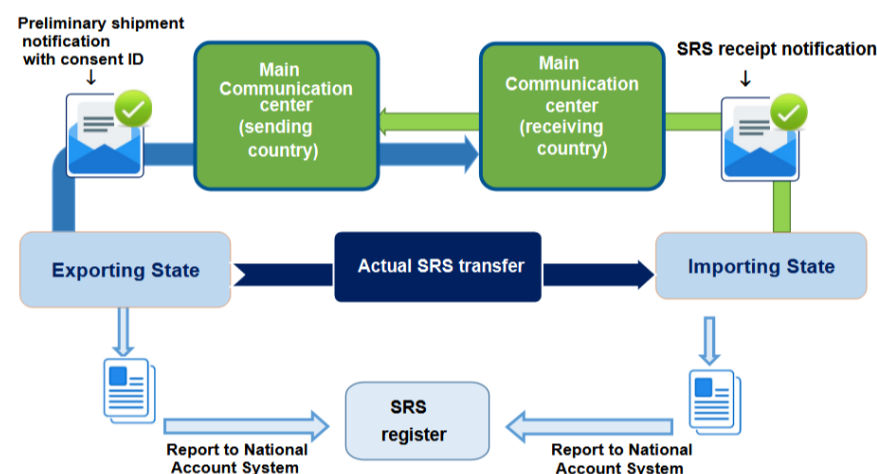
The authority of the Communication Center of the Russian Federation is vested in the National Operator for Radioactive Waste Management (RAW NO FSUE).

Based on reports of RF organizations on the intention to export Category 1 and 2 sources to the CIS member states an employee of the RF Communication Centre forms and sends a Request to the Communication Centre of the foreign state. Then an answer is received (consent or rejection).

After receiving consent to import an employee of the RF Communication Centre forms and sends a pre-shipment notification to the Communication Centre of the foreign state. Then a confirmation of actual receipt of radioactive sources is received.

The diagram shows the system of documentary interaction between the parties to the Agreement in the SRS export from the Russian Federation which corresponds to IAEA/CODEOC/IMP-EXP/2005 IAEA.

Export and import of SRS in coherence with IAEA/CODEOC/IMP-EXP/2012



To date, the exchange of information on delivery and acceptance of SRS has been piloted in accordance with the established regulations by representatives of competent authorized organizations of CIS countries where the Agreement has become effective.

The Information Cooperation in accordance with the Agreement minimizes the probability of loss of control over SRS in case of transboundary transportation and helps secure control over Category 1 and 2 SRS in emergencies, including prompt response to regain control over orphaned SRS.

The cooperation of the Agreement Member States helped identify the key stages of building an Informational Cooperation system, which currently applies to Category 1 and 2 sealed sources, including disused sealed radioactive sources. The experience of the Commonwealth countries in building informational cooperation can be used by other states to ensure safe SRS management.

REFERENCES

- [1] Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, IAEA, VIENNA, 2004 IAEA/CODEOC/2004
- [2] Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources IAEA, VIENNA 2005, IAEA/CODEOC/IMP-EXP/2005
- [3] Standard Requirements for Registers of Ionizing Radiation Sources of CIS Member States, 2015. Approved in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, November 2017, during the 18th Assembly of the CIS Member States Commission on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.
- [4] Uniform Procedure and Forms for Exchange of Information by CIS Member States on Transportation of Radioactive Sources.

The document is available at: http://sng-atom.com/index.php?cid=230&group_id=561&graction=group&tid=groups.

² The Agreement on Informational Cooperation between the Commonwealth of Independent States Members on the Matter of Radioactive Sources Transferral dated June 07, 2016, signed by the representatives of the Republic of Armenia, the

Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. International Treaty Bulletin, 2016, No. 8

Synergies and Mutual Reinforcement between ARTEMIS reviews and the Joint Convention



Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation

ARTEMIS



The IAEA offers 17 peer review and advisory services in nuclear safety and security. These services aim at enhancing global nuclear safety and security worldwide and provide independent insights from international experts based on IAEA safety standards.

In the field of radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning, and remediation, the main peer review service provided by the IAEA is the ARTEMIS (Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning, and Remediation) which supports the development and implementation of full radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning, and remediation programmes or specific parts of these programmes. The IAEA also offers the IRRS (Integrated Regulatory Review Service) review service which addresses the regulatory infrastructure of all facilities and activities in a country and includes dedicated module(s) addressing radioactive waste and spent fuel management, decommissioning, and remediation from the regulatory point of view.

ARTEMIS is a cross-cutting service coordinated by the Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety and the Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology. It covers six review domains: national arrangements for radioactive waste and spent fuel, decommissioning, predisposal, spent fuel management, disposal, and remediation.

Designed for flexibility, ARTEMIS can address full national arrangements or specific programs and projects. Reviews can be requested by the governments of the Member States, and costs are primarily covered by the requesting party although in some cases through IAEA Technical Cooperation funding.



IRRS Peer Review



ARTEMIS Peer Review

Connection between the ARTEMIS and the Joint Convention

ARTEMIS reviews and the Joint Convention share the same objective of enhancing the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management to protect people and the environment from the harmful effect of ionizing radiation. Both employ peer review mechanisms and promote international cooperation by highlighting practices to share knowledge and providing suggestions with a view to improve the safety related matters. As an example since 2017, 33 ARTEMIS reviews have been conducted in 29 Member States, primarily in Europe, often involving comprehensive reviews of national arrangements. The main driver for European Union Member

States has been the legal obligation coming from the directive 2011/70/EURATOM stating that the Member States shall periodically, and at least every 10 years invite international peer review of their national framework, competent regulatory authority and/or national programme with the aim of ensuring that high safety standards are achieved in the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The service provides independent expert opinion through recommendations, suggestions, and good practices as outlined in the ARTEMIS guidelines. Similarly, the Review Meetings of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management recognize challenges, suggestions, areas of good performance, and good practices, as outlined in the INFCIRC/603/Rev.10 guidelines.

ARTEMIS uses international experts to review national programmes and policies, offering feedback based on IAEA safety standards and best international practices. The Joint Convention facilitates Contracting Parties reviewing each other's National Reports, encouraging discussion, and learning from shared experiences. While the Joint Convention is an instrument belonging to the Contracting Parties and the IAEA serves as Secretary for meetings of Contracting Parties, ARTEMIS is a review service owned by the IAEA and offered to its Member States.

Michalis Tzortzis from the Radiation Inspection and Control Service, Department of Labour Inspection in Cyprus, believes that encouraging Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention to undergo an IAEA ARTEMIS peer review fosters global safety and transparency in radioactive waste management. *"First, such a review can help identify areas of strength and good practices that can be shared with others, as well as weaknesses that need to be addressed for improvement". Additionally, it "demonstrates a strong commitment to transparency and accountability in managing spent fuel and radioactive waste, enhancing country's reputation internationally and showing that the waste management responsibilities are taken seriously".*

Both instruments equally foster international cooperation. ARTEMIS reviews share experiences and lessons learned, contributing to the global corpus of knowledge on safe radioactive waste and spent fuel management. The Joint Convention requires Contracting Parties to share information on their management practices and progress in implementing safety measures. By implementing ARTEMIS findings and addressing challenges recognized during Joint Convention Review Meetings, Contracting Parties improve not only alignment of their national programmes with the IAEA safety standards but also overall national framework for radioactive waste management. Peter De Preter, Advisor long-term management in ONDRAF/NIRAS, Belgium noted the significant benefits of the ARTEMIS review for Belgium in December 2023, explaining that it provides *"a detailed assessment of ongoing and planned activities on a policy & strategic level and on an operational level."* He emphasized that *"the suggestions and recommendations give confirmation and/or direction to future national priorities,"* which is crucial for *"identifying and structuring the future challenges and planned measures to*

improve safety in the Joint Convention National Report."

In addition, being a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention and inviting ARTEMIS peer review gives the possibility to provide a framework for Contracting Parties to commit to following up on ARTEMIS/Joint Convention findings and, thus creating a reinforcing loop for continuous improvement on the safety of radioactive and spent fuel management. On the recommendation for Contracting Parties to undergo ARTEMIS reviews, Dace Šatrovskā, Director of the Radiation Safety Centre in Latvia remarked, *"A more detailed review of the national radioactive waste management program in the ARTEMIS mission certainly helps to better understand the issues that improve the waste management program and, as a result, the requirements of the Convention are more fully implemented."* She further explained that the ARTEMIS review in December 2019 significantly improved Latvia's national radioactive waste management program. She noted, *"The results of the ARTEMIS mission made it possible to better understand which elements in the national radioactive waste management program are at a sufficient level and which elements should be given more attention."* This review coincided with the development of a new radioactive waste program, incorporating several ARTEMIS recommendations, which helped Latvia present their management issues more effectively at the Joint Convention Review Meeting

ARTEMIS review service and the Joint Convention both emphasize adherence to international standards and best practices in the safety of radioactive waste and spent fuel management. For example, among the findings of both ARTEMIS and the Joint Convention review meetings, good practices illustrate such an adherence. Although definition and awarding process for a good practice in the Joint Convention and ARTEMIS are different, they both provide recognition of practices, policies or programmes that are tried and proven, currently not widely implemented, but still applicable to other countries.

Both frameworks are beneficial in preparing for peer reviews or National Reports. National Reports submitted during the Joint Convention review cycle can be used in preparation for the ARTEMIS reviews and are provided, if appropriate, as material for ARTEMIS reviewers. Conversely, outcomes of ARTEMIS reviews can be used to prepare future National Reports for the Joint Convention. All Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention that have undergone ARTEMIS reviews report these in their Joint Convention National Reports.

As a result of the Joint Convention review process, number of Contracting Parties have undergone or planned ARTEMIS missions. Many reported plans to invite an ARTEMIS peer review and to implement recommendations recognized during ARTEMIS review as planned measures to improve safety. Peter De Preter expressed strong support for ARTEMIS reviews, describing them as *"a unique independent review process that combines an overview of the national framework and national programme with a more detailed assessment and identification of key challenges and priorities for a country."* He highlighted that this process *"brings in a lot of*

international experience to a national situation, with its specific challenges," making ARTEMIS reviews *"an important tool of international collaboration."*

Conclusion

ARTEMIS reviews and the Joint Convention have proven to be valuable instruments for enhancing the overall safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management. The two mechanisms are closely linked in their goals and processes, working in synergy to reinforce global safety standards in radioactive waste and spent fuel management through comprehensive peer reviews, national reporting, and international cooperation. The synergy between these instruments is evident during both reviews processes, as reports and outcomes from one are usually used in another.

While the Joint Convention has successfully proven itself in achieving its objectives over the last two decades, ARTEMIS reviews have proven as a valuable mechanism to facilitate Contracting Parties' efforts to fulfil the obligations stemming from the Joint Convention. Both instruments, although different by its nature and mechanism of interaction with Member States have significantly contributed to the goals of achieving and maintaining a high level of safety worldwide in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, ensuring that during all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management there are effective defenses against potential hazards from harmful effects of ionizing radiation as well as preventing accidents with radiological consequences.

The two review mechanisms and their findings, although different in their processes and mechanisms of identification provide Contracting Parties with valuable insight of their national programmes and identify opportunities for their further enhancement. The synergy between these instruments is evident during reviews processes. On the one hand, National Reports submitted under the Joint Convention are usually used as preparation material for ARTEMIS review. On the other hand, in many instances observations given during Joint Convention Review Meetings is to invite an ARTEMIS mission or to implement the findings recognized during the ARTEMIS review.

3. Meetings of Contracting Parties

The Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention

Since the start of the Joint Convention, Contracting Parties have requested five Extraordinary Meetings to address proposals, and the most recent was held at the IAEA's Headquarters from 25 to 26 March 2024.

The Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention was attended by 64 Contracting Parties. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, the President of the most recent (Seventh) Review Meeting, Mr Hans Wanner, acted as President of the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting.

At the meeting seven proposals submitted by Contracting Parties were addressed. The proposals were titled:

- a) Enhancing the Peer Review Process in Country Group Sessions in the Identification of Good Practices
- b) Country Group Officer's training on recognizing Good Practices
- c) Discussion of Good Practices in the General Committee and the closing Plenary session
- d) Guidance on addressing Good Practices and Areas of Good Performance in National Reports
- e) Development of Awarded Good Practices database
- f) Improving the procedural mechanism for assigning Contracting Parties to Country Groups
- g) Proposal for change in point 39 of INFCIRC/603/Rev.9 and definition of Good Practices

During discussions, no consensus was achieved on proposal (f), and proposal (g) were withdrawn.

The proposals (a) – (e) were adopted with modifications. The changes to the relevant guidance documents are included as annexes in the Summary Report from the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

More detailed outcomes of the meeting are presented in the Summary Report of the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, which is available on the [Joint Convention public website](#).



The Organizational Meeting for the Eighth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention



Prior to each Review Meeting, an Organizational Meeting is held. The Organizational Meeting for the Eighth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention was held at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 27 to 28 March 2024 in continuation of the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting. The meeting was attended by 66 Contracting Parties.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramzi Jammal (Canada) was elected for the position of President of the Eighth Review Meeting, while Ms Erica Bickford (USA) and Mr Jean-Luc Lachaume (France) were elected Vice-Presidents for the Eighth Review Meeting. Contracting Parties were allocated to Country Groups and Country Group Officers were selected. In addition, a provisional timetable for the Eighth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties was decided. The overview of Country Group Officers, compositions of Country Groups and the provisional Agenda for the Eighth Review Meeting are available through the [Joint Convention secure website](#).

4. Experience of new Contracting Parties

Development of the Türkiye's first National Report for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

The Joint Convention was ratified by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye on 6 October 2021 and entered into force in Türkiye on 21 May 2023, with the aim of enhancing the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management. Even before Türkiye became a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention, the articles of the Joint Convention were fully considered in the drafting of the Turkish legislation on the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

Despite the considerable experience gained from the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the preparation of the first national report for the Joint Convention presented a significant challenge. A drafting team was established under the guidance of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NDK) and in collaboration with national stakeholders, including the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (ETKB), the Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency (TENMAK), the Ministry of Interior, Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ), Türkiye Nuclear Energy Company (TÜNAŞ) and Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant Electricity Generation Joint-Stock Company.



Drafting team and international experts, attended to the Joint Convention Workshop

The first National Report of Türkiye was prepared in accordance with the provisions of Article 32 of the Joint Convention. During the drafting process, the team took into consideration the guidelines regarding the form and structure of national reports (INFCIRC/604/Rev.4) and the outcomes of the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Joint Convention, held in March 2024. In addition to the self-explanatory guidelines, the team also consulted publicly accessible national reports as practical examples, particularly from countries with similar nuclear and radioactive waste management programmes.

As a new Contracting Party, Türkiye has received comprehensive support and assistance from the IAEA in the preparation of the first national report. In May 2024, a workshop was held in Ankara with the participation of the Joint Convention Coordinator and experts from the Czech Republic and Argentina, as well as members of the drafting team. At the workshop, the Joint Convention and its guidelines were analysed and multiple questions were addressed. Additionally, the experts shared their experiences regarding the preparation of the national report and the previous review process.

Following the workshop, the first National Report of Türkiye was finalised and delivered to the IAEA in adherence to the specified due date of 16 August 2024.

5. Officers' feedback

A slate of current and experienced Officers of the Joint Convention responded in their own words with pride and wisdom regarding their experiences just prior to the Eighth Review Meeting.



**Current Vice-President / Former
Co-ordinator of the Joint Convention**

Dr. Erica Bickford of the United States

**Office of Nuclear Energy, Office Director
and Scientist**

United States Department of Energy

What motivated you to become an Officer?

I was in my first year working at the US Department of Energy, and my supervisor suggested participation in the Joint Convention would be a good learning opportunity for me. The then-US National Point of Contact, Doug Tonkay, encouraged me to put my name in to be an Officer for the Fifth Review Meeting cycle. I was new to the subject of spent fuel and radioactive waste management and did not know anything about the Joint Convention or what being an Officer meant. I was eager to learn and contribute, so was happy to have the opportunity to get involved in the Joint Convention. The US happened to have the Presidency for the Fifth Review Meeting, so I was also invited to sit in on the meetings to draft and finalize the President's Summary Report. There were some very long working days, but I learned so much about international spent fuel and radioactive waste management programs as well as US programs outside my department and made many international contacts that continue to this day. Overall, it was a great experience.

What was your experience from being an Officer in the previous review cycles? Were expectations met?

I was so new; I did not have any real expectations. I had a very general understanding of what the Joint Convention was, how the Review Meeting would be conducted and my responsibilities as an Officer in the role of Co-ordinator. Luckily, I had multiple US colleagues that had participated in several Joint Convention Review Meetings, and they were helpful resources to answer questions and support preparations.

I agreed to be an Officer also for the Sixth Review Meeting and was again selected to be a Co-ordinator. Having already done it once, the second time I knew what to expect and was able to identify an opportunity to improve the Coordinator Report writing process. While the Rapporteur's Report templates were available and well-established, at that time, there was no comparable Co-ordinator Report Template. Without a template, each Co-ordinator was left on their own to determine which information, and how much detail to include in their reports. In advance of the 6th Review Meeting, co-led with a colleague from Sweden who was also a second time Co-ordinator - we worked with all the 6th Review Meeting Co-ordinators

to draft a Co-ordinator Report template that was put in use starting with the Sixth Review Meeting.

With the Co-ordinator Report Template, we agreed that the core functions of the reports should be as follows: A ready reference guide for Officers and Country Group members; An aid for preparation for the discussion in the Review Sessions; A source for certain specific inputs for the Rapporteur's Daily Reports (such as progress on issues since the last Review Meeting; Challenges, Good Practices, and Areas of Good Performance as self-identified by the Contracting Party in their National Report; and planned measures to improve safety); and A stand-in for a National Presentation and basis for discussion in rare instances where a National Report was submitted, but the country does not attend the Review Meeting. That Co-ordinator Report template first introduced in the Sixth Review Meeting has been updated and continues to be a resource for Officers preparing for the Eighth Review Meeting.

Would you accept the task of being an Officer again? (why/why not?)

I have been an Officer in the Co-ordinator role twice and I am again an Officer for the Eighth Review Meeting, this time a Vice-President. So, the answer is "yes!" However, preparations before the Review Meeting and activities during the Review Meeting can take a lot of time. As I have advanced in my career, I find I have less and less time to take on "extra" activities outside my regular duties. I would certainly encourage my early career staff to pursue the opportunity. It continues to be a great learning experience.

Something that may challenge the Joint Convention to attract Officer candidates in the future is the heavy workload some Officer roles have relative to others. The roles of Co-ordinator and Rapporteur, in my observation, are now among the most demanding, with Coordinators spending a great deal of time in advance of the Review Meeting reviewing National Reports, developing Co-ordinator Reports, sharing draft Co-ordinator reports for review with National Points of Contact and their Country Group Officers, tracking down missing overview matrices, incorporating edits to finalize all of their Reports in advance of the Review Meeting. During the Review Meeting, Rapporteurs must produce Daily Reports in very short time-periods, often working late into the night to prepare for each day. It has been discussed before and will likely be discussed again, that adjustments should be made to ensure Rapporteurs have reasonable workloads during the Review Meeting. Multiple options are available, including adding more Country Groups to reduce the number of Contracting Parties in each group, and therefore reduce the number of Reports each Coordinator and Rapporteur is required to produce. Another or additional option could be to transition the Coordinator and Rapporteur individual Officer positions into a "2-person Co-ordinator-Rapporteur Officer team" with each Officer responsible for half of the Coordinator Reports and half of the Rapporteur's reports. This arrangement could better distribute the workloads for both Officer roles leading up to and during the Review Meeting. I look forward to continued discussions on how to improve the operation of the Joint Convention, including the roles of Officers.



Current and Experienced Rapporteur

Mr. Emilio García Neri of Spain
Senior expert, Radioactive waste management and decommissioning International Cooperation and R&D Section
Empresa Nacional de Residuos Radioactivos, S.A. (ENRESA)

What motivated you to become an Officer?

First time I served as Officer was at the time of the 4th Review Meeting for the Joint Convention in 2012. At that occasion, Spain was seeking for suitable candidates to serve as officers across Spanish related organizations. The decision to volunteer presenting my candidature was a combination of service from my organization, Enresa, to our authorities in Spain coupled with my willingness to accept the associated task.

What was your experience from being an Officer in the previous review cycles? Were expectations met?

Forthcoming Review Meeting will be the fifth for which I will serve. My participation in this activity is being very positive experience to me, my organization and my country as we all benefit of this unique opportunity to gather authoritative information on the implementation of National programmes across the word. Therefore, participating in the whole Review Meeting process enables us to achieve a deep understanding, about achievement and challenges, becoming a source of inspiration for our own National programme. Actually, I feel gifted for have been an Officer during these years as enabled me to try to contribute, from a different and key position to the continued improvement of the safe management of RW and Sf worldwide. Personally, becoming an Officer, gave me the opportunity to give back to the community some of what I received and learned from others along these years.

Would you accept the task of being an Officer again? (why/why not?)

Being Officer, in my experience, requires of attitude to serve, time to prepare and energy for action. If my condition fits with these requisites, I may volunteer for a sixth and last term.



Current Co-ordinator of Country Group 5 for the Eighth Review Meeting

Mr Zhang Chunlong of China
Section Head, Department of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management
Nuclear and Radiation Safety Center
Ministry of Ecology and Environment

What motivated you to become an Officer?

As a technician from TSO, being an Officer is a good way to deeply know how the Joint Convention works, and how to fulfil the responsibilities of our country, as a member states, in the framework of the Joint Convention. And it is also a good opportunity to learn the good practices and experiences from other Contracting Parties by taking part in every activity of Review Meeting as an Officer, and then to improve my job.

What is your expectation for the task as an Officer?

Everyone is striving for the common goal of improving the safety of spent fuel management and radioactive waste management, with more emphasis on technical discussions rather than other aspects.

Would you accept the task of being an Officer again? (why/why not?)

Yes, if possible. Experience and continuity are important for every Contracting Party. Experienced officials are beneficial in enhancing the capacity to fulfil the responsibilities of their countries and maintaining the continuity of related work and ensuring efficiency for each review meeting as well.



Current Chairperson of Country Group 7 for the Eighth Review Meeting

Ms. Qhamkile Boyede of South Africa
South African Nuclear Energy Corporation
Necsa Group Executive: Strategy and Business Enablement

What motivated you to become an Officer?

I am honoured and grateful for the opportunity to serve as an Incoming Officer for the Eight Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the IAEA Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Radioactive Waste Disposal. In my current occupational role as Group Executive for Strategy and Business Enablement at the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (Necsa), I oversee areas such as Compliance, Security, Legal, Corporate Communication, Branding and Stakeholder Relations, Strategy and other enabling functions. This position has highlighted the importance of learning from the experiences of other contracting parties, particularly with regard to waste management practices and the adoption of good practices in the field.

What is your expectation for the task as an Officer?

I am committed to ensuring that the review of national reports submitted by contracting parties is carried out in full alignment with the guidelines, obligations, and the Code of Good Practice outlined in the Joint Convention. As Chair, I am eager to collaborate closely with the other officers in our group—namely the Deputy Chair, Rapporteur, and Coordinator—to successfully fulfil this responsibility. We have commenced with our meeting with the Coordinator as Country Group and have charted a path and key actions we need to take in alignment to the detail scheduled received for the eighth review cycle.

Would you accept the task of being an Officer again? (Why/Why not?)

Yes, I would gladly accept the role again. As a representative of one of the IAEA member states, I believe it is crucial to contribute to capacity-building efforts and foster knowledge sharing. This platform provides an invaluable opportunity to exchange insights on the technologies and practices being employed in the management of radioactive waste, which is essential for advancing safety and sustainability within the field.

6. Joint Convention Secretariat's promotional and implementation assistance activities

The activities of Joint Convention Secretariat since the publication of [Issue #10](#) in September 2023 have been as follows:

A. Events to raise awareness and promote the benefits of becoming a Party to the Joint Convention to Member States

IAEA interregional workshops in 2023 and 2024

An interregional workshop was held from 23 to 25 October 2023 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna to promote the Joint Convention (JC) and the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS)

Member States were also encouraged to designate participants representing personnel from their Permanent Missions in charge of working with the IAEA. The workshop included presentations and discussions related to the functioning of both JC and CNS legal instruments.

Messrs. Hans Wanner (President of the JC Seventh Review Meeting) and Carl-Magnus Larsson (Vice-President of the CNS Eighth & Ninth joint Review Meetings) addressed the audience and led the discussion on the perceived challenges for adhering to JC and CNS Conventions.

Through presentations and interactive group discussions, officially nominated participants from Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia, Iran, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia learned about the experience of Austria and Switzerland in the Joint Convention and the experience of Canada and Slovakia in the CNS.

An interregional workshop was held from 30 September to 4 October 2024 at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna to promote the Joint Convention

Mr Ramzi Jammal (President of the JC Eighth Review Meeting) addressed the audience via [pre-recorded video message](#). Experts from Cyprus and Ghana shared the experience of being a Contracting Party to the Joint Convention, by presenting the main benefits and challenges identified. Through presentations and hands-on activities, participants from Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Yemen had an opportunity to learn how the peer review process works.

In an online survey conducted prior to the workshop, participants shared their views on the status, major obstacles to their countries' participation in the Joint Convention, and further assistance to facilitate their eventual accession to this international legal instrument. The responses were presented and discussed during the workshop.

At the end of the week, participants completed an online evaluation of the workshop, which highlighted the alternation between theory, group discussions and practical exercises as a key factor contributing to the success of the workshop. In addition, this approach demonstrated the relevance of the Joint Convention for all countries and the practicality of joining it, as well as what it entails, and provided a hands-on learning experience.



Regional workshops in 2023 and 2024

An African Region workshop was held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 11 to 14 December 2023

The Workshop was organized by the IAEA in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Africa through National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) and Mr Zizamele Mbambo (Deputy Director General, Nuclear Energy, NNR) opened the workshop on behalf of the host country.

Experts from Zimbabwe and South Africa together with Ms Annatina Mueller-Germana (Advisor to the President of the JC Seventh Review Meeting) and Mr Thiagan Pather (Vice-President of the JC Seventh Review Meeting) presented the Joint Convention, a cornerstone of the international legal framework for nuclear safety, to the officially designated representatives of Angola, Burundi, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

Both prior to and after the workshop, participants gave and received results of online surveys and feedback. Prior to the workshop, an online survey was offered to the officially designated representatives of participating Member States to share their views on the status, major obstacles to their countries' participation in the Joint Convention, and further assistance to facilitate their eventual accession to this legal instrument. The responses received were analyzed and discussed at the meeting. On Wednesday, 13 December 2023, Ms Dietbogo Kgomo, CEO NNR, engaged in the discussion with invited experts and participants.

In their online feedback received after the workshop, participants provided very positive feedback. It was noted that the workshop provided an in-depth understanding of the Convention, its objectives and scope, the obligations, and the review process. It also helped to better understand the essence of the Joint Convention and provided a comprehensive insight on the importance of the Convention for States to be a Contracting Party in the future. Appreciation was expressed for the assistance and support of the IAEA, for its efforts to promote the Joint Convention, and the IAEA was encouraged to continue these efforts, particularly in sensitizing policymakers on the need to join this international legal instrument. The excellent organization of the event by the host institution, National Nuclear Regulator of South Africa, was also acknowledged.



A Latin America and Caribbean Region workshop was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 6 to 10 May 2024

The Workshop was organized by the IAEA in collaboration with the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil through the Comissão Nacional de Energia Nuclear (CNEN). Mr. Alessandro Facure Neves Salles Soares (Director of the Directorate for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, CNEN) opened the meeting and welcomed the experts from Brazil and Cuba, local participants, and officially nominated representatives of Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadin.

The workshop was structured to explain the peer review process under the Joint Convention from the perspective of both the Contracting Party, including the benefits and challenges of being a Party, and the Secretariat. In addition, group work and discussions were held on the relevance of the Joint Convention to their countries and the perceived benefits of adherence to the Convention, the identification of relevant provisions of

the Convention for their countries, and the participants' experience in the peer review process of legal instruments adopted under the auspices of the IAEA. Moreover, practical exercises were held to brainstorm and outline the proposed structure of National Reports and the overview matrix, and a mock country group session was staged to simulate the Cuban National Report review session and demonstrate the intricacies of the Country Group session during the Review Meeting of the Joint Convention.

In an online survey conducted prior to the workshop, participants shared their views on the status, major obstacles to their countries' participation in the Joint Convention, and further assistance to facilitate their eventual accession to this international legal instrument. The responses were presented and discussed during the workshop.

At the end of workshop, an online survey was conducted about the workshop and participants expressed a favorable view of the event and highlighted that the sharing of practical experience from a Contracting Party with a small nuclear programme (Cuba) was of value. Taking into consideration that one CNEN representative attended the Seventh Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, Brazilian participants emphasized the importance of the event, which provided them an opportunity to obtain valuable information on the Convention and the Country Group session.



An Asia Region workshop was held from 8 to 13 December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Workshop was organized by the IAEA in collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission (NRRC). Dr Khalid Aleissa (CEO of the Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission) opened the meeting on behalf of the host country. In addition, Mr Ramzi Jammal (President of the JC Eighth Review Meeting) addressed the audience through a [pre-recorded video message](#).

Prior to the workshop, officially designated representatives of participating Member States were invited to complete an online survey to share their views on the status, the main obstacles to their countries' participation in the Joint Convention and further assistance that could facilitate their possible accession to this legal instrument. The responses received were analyzed and discussed at the workshop.

During the workshop, Mr Ahmad Alsabbagh (Jordan's National Contact for the Joint Convention and Secretary General of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission), experts from Saudi Arabia, and the JC Coordinator presented the Joint Convention, its scope and objectives, obligations, and associated guidance documents to representatives from Bangladesh, Lao P.D.R, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan. The officially designated 5 representatives from Singapore, Vanuatu, and Yemen withdrew before the workshop.

Following the presentations, participants each day had the opportunity to brainstorm and reflect on the situation in their respective countries in accompanying group discussions and individual practical sessions. In addition, experts from Jordan and Saudi Arabia shared their experiences with the Joint Convention in terms of the activities undertaken to join the Joint Convention, the advantages of their countries as Contracting Parties, the preparation of the National Report at the country level, the review and submission of questions and answers to the National Reports, and lessons learnt from participation in the Review Meetings. In addition, the workshop included a mock Country Group session to review the National Report of Saudi Arabia for the Seventh Review Meeting.



In evaluating the event, participants noted the following:

- The workshop provided invaluable insights and practical guidance for countries considering accession to the Joint Convention. Key outcomes include an enhanced understanding of technical, legal, and procedural aspects of the Joint Convention, as well as shared experiences from participating Contracting Parties.
- The workshop was intense and to the point - everyone was participating and stepped out of their comfort zone.
- The workshop was very informative and inspirational. It provided an understanding of the details of the Joint Convention in terms of its benefits as well as obligations. I would particularly like to mention the interactive elements – group discussions, practical sessions, and a mock -up of a Country Group session.
- Learning from the experiences of other countries, particularly Saudi Arabia's approach to radioactive waste management, was invaluable. I gained clarity on the steps required to align policies with international standards and advance our efforts toward accession.
- It was quite helpful that workshop materials were shared via MsTeams and participants could have referred along the workshop.

All attendees expressed appreciation to the IAEA for its efforts in organizing the workshop and commended the NRRC its excellent logistics and hospitality.

B. Assisting Contracting Parties in the development of their first National Reports

Türkiye National Training Event was held from 20 to 24 May 2024 in Ankara

The workshop was organized at the request of the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the Nükleer Düzenleme Kurumu (NDK) and was held at the NDK premises with attendance of 35 representatives of Türkiye.

The experience of the Czechia and Argentina was used to illustrate the scope of reporting and then extrapolated to the context of programme and practices/activities in Türkiye. Further, consideration was given to other important elements of the National Report, such as the overview matrix, the four overarching issues that Contracting Parties agreed to address in the National Reports for the Eighth Review Meeting, recommendations for the national presentation as agreed at the March 2024 Organizational Meeting, and the IAEA safety standards and references to them in reporting on obligations under the Convention. Guidance was also provided on important milestones (and deadlines) related to the Eighth Review Meeting and on preparations for participation in the Country Group session and the Review Meeting.

The Türkiye authorities expressed their gratitude for the guidance and support provided in preparation of the first National Report and assured that the Report will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for their consideration within the stipulated timeframe.

According to the online feedback of the participants, the activities conducted during the event met the objective and enabled them to better understand the content and structure of the first National Report under the Joint Convention, as well as the obligations contained in the Joint Convention and the peer review process.

After the workshop, Türkiye submitted its first National Report for the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention.



Iraq National Training Event was held from 30 June to 4 July 2024 in Baghdad

This event was organized at the request of the Government of the Republic of Iraq through the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC).

The training was designed to familiarize the Iraqi national authorities with the proposed form and structure of the National Report as outlined in JC Guidelines INFCIRC/604/Rev.5 and to explain the provisions to be addressed in each section as well as the relevant measures to implement the provisions of the Joint Convention.

The following Iraqi officials addressed the audience during the opening of the event:

- Mr Fadhil Hawi Mizban (Chairman, Iraqi Radioactive Sources Regulatory Authority)
- Mr Majid Shannoon Khalaf Alsaed (Director General, Management of Hazard Material Department, Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission)
- Mr Ahmed Saddam, Director, Radioactive Waste Directorate (Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission)

Invited experts from Lithuania and South Africa shared their experiences and provided guidance on the scope of reporting by reflecting on their National Reports and then extrapolating their scope of application to the context of the nuclear programme and practices/activities in Iraq.



Invited experts from Lithuania and South Africa actively shared their experiences and offered valuable guidance on the scope of reporting. They also showcased their National Reports and thoughtfully analyzed their scope of application to the context of Iraq’s nuclear programme and practices.

In addition, participants were informed about other important elements of the National Report, such as the overview matrix, overarching issues, and the IAEA safety standards and references to them in reporting on obligations under the Convention. Guidance was also provided on important milestones (and deadlines) related to the Eighth Review Meeting and on preparations for participation in the Country Group session and the Review Meeting, including recommendations for the national presentation.

The event fulfilled its main objective, and the team of experts covered all elements of the training in productive discussions and interactions with 26 representatives of Iraqi authorities from Ministry of Science and Education, Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Committee, Al-Nahrain University.

The Iraqi authorities noted the success of the event and expressed their appreciation for the support provided in preparing country’s first National Report and assured that the Report will be submitted to the Contracting Parties for their consideration within the stipulated timeframe.

After the workshop, Iraq submitted its first National Report for the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention.

Virtual Training Event for Benin, Congo, and Gabon was held from 2 to 4 July 2024

The workshop was designed in French for four Contracting Parties (Benin, Congo, Gabon and Rwanda). Unfortunately, no participants were nominated/attended from Rwanda. A total number of 10 participants from three Contracting Parties attended the event.

The following presenters, including two international experts with experience in activities related to preparation and submission of the National Reports under the Joint Convention and participation in the review process were engaged for this event:

- Ms. Pui Wai Yuen (Director, Uranium and Radioactive Waste Division, Natural Resources Canada);
- Ms. Sophie Beauquier (International Relations Advisor, Autorité de sûreté nucléaire (ASN), France and Advisor to the Vice-President of the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention).

Besides, presentations were also delivered by:

- Mr. Gerard Bruno (Unit Head, Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management Unit, IAEA);
- Mr. Philip Webster (Advisor to the President of the Eighth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention).

All questions and comments raised during the three days of workshop were discussed in detail.

After the workshop, Benin and Congo submitted their National Reports for the Eighth Review Meeting.

C. Supporting Contracting Parties' preparations for the Eighth Review Meeting

Webinar for National Contacts of Contracting Parties was held on 23 April 2024

In response to the new review cycle of the Joint Convention and the influx of new National Contacts, as well as the growing demand for information, a highly anticipated webinar was held on 23 April 2024. This event aimed to equip the National Contacts of Contracting Parties with essential information about the activities leading up to the Eighth Review Meeting and their respective roles.

While the webinar primarily targeted National Contacts, it warmly welcomed anyone interested and involved in the Joint Convention's work within their countries. The event saw an exciting turnout, with 60 participants from 43 Contracting Parties. Attendees received valuable insights into the main actions and timelines, aligned with the dates agreed upon by the Contracting Parties. They also receive other important guidance and helpful tips, ensuring they are well-prepared and informed. For those who couldn't join the webinar, the presentation was thoughtfully posted on the JC secure website to ensure every user of the website has easy access to this information.

Workshop for the Incoming and Outgoing Officers of the Joint Convention was held from 25-26 June 2024

While there is ongoing work between Review Meetings, the workshop for the incoming and outgoing Officers is a pivotal moment. It marks the transition and start of the newly elected/selected Officers' work in the current triennial review cycle – now the Eighth one. This workshop also offered a valuable platform for the outgoing Officers of the Seventh Review Meeting to share their feedback, experiences, and lessons learned with the incoming Officers of the Eighth Review Meeting.

The role of Officers (President, Vice-President, Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Co-ordinator, Rapporteur) is key to the effectiveness and success of the review process. It demands strong commitment and involves significant responsibilities, thorough preparations and a spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance between the Officers – true teamwork.

Mr. Ramzi Jammal, President of the Eighth Review Meeting, also shared his inspiring vision, encouraging attendees to embrace a spirit of openness and cooperation in seeking improvements for the functioning of the Joint Convention, and expressed his strong commitment to making the Eighth Review Meeting a resounding success by ensuring it is conducted in a non-political environment.

In addition to the enriching exchange of experiences among Officers, including the Country Group mock-up session, the workshop decided to offer a template for national presentations for voluntary use by Contracting Parties. They also approved the Chairperson's introductory presentation for use at Country Group sessions and endorsed the changes to the Co-ordinator's report template. Furthermore, some enhancements to the Rapporteur's report template were identified for final approval at the Officers' meeting immediately preceding the Eighth Review Meeting.

7. Status of Contracting Parties

The Joint Convention is relevant to all IAEA Member States as all countries generate radioactive waste, either from the production of nuclear electricity or from the use of radioisotopes in medical diagnosis and treatment, in industrial or agricultural applications, or in research and education. As of December 2024, the Joint Convention consists of 90 Contracting Parties.

How will the Joint Convention benefit your country?

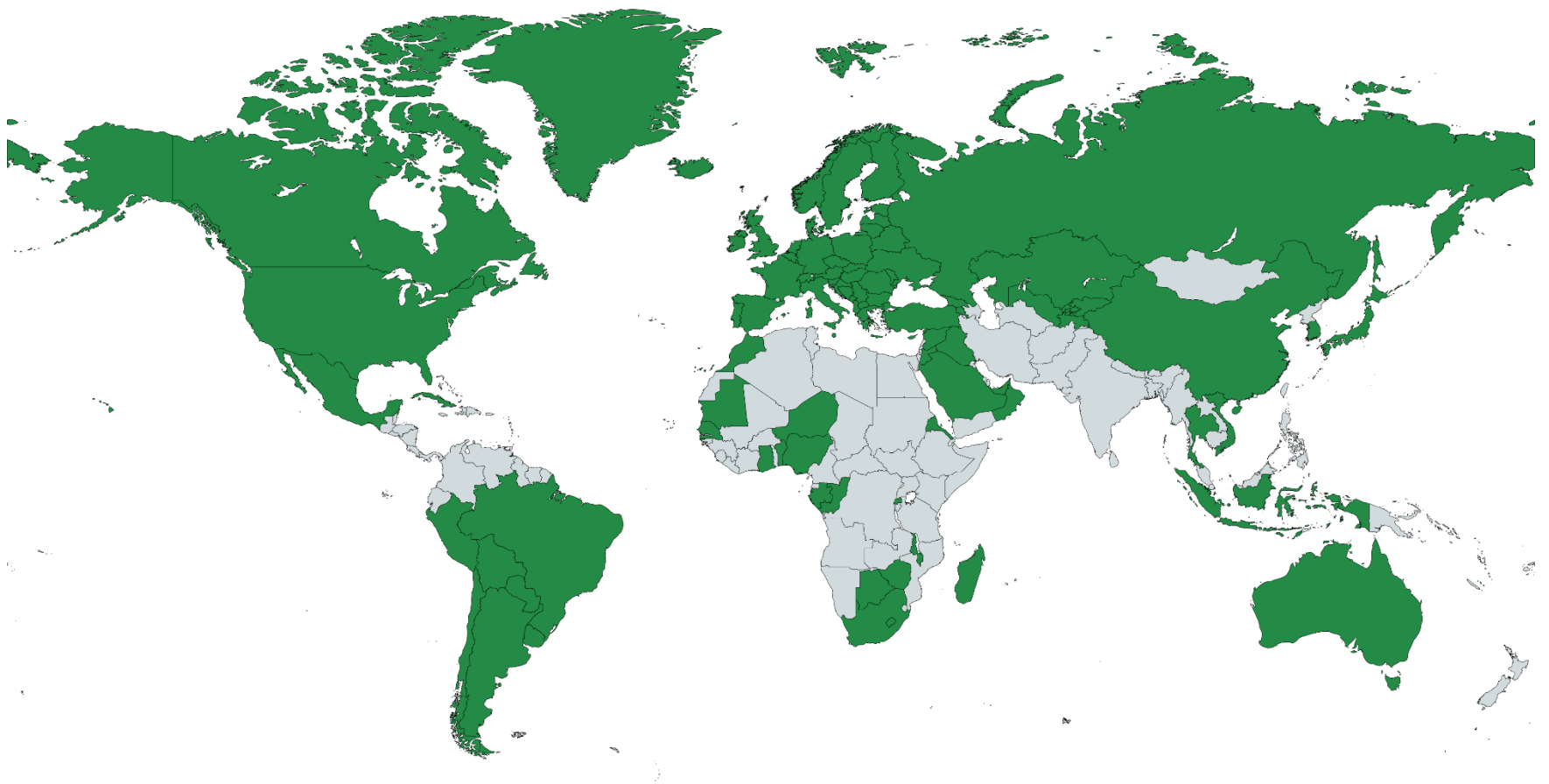
- By fostering an international approach to the management of spent fuel, radioactive waste, and disused sources and sharing expertise in these areas.
- By assuring the public that national arrangements for management of spent fuel, radioactive waste, and disused sources conform to international standards.
- By highlighting the opportunities to receive assistance, in the case of a country having limited resources to improve its infrastructure.

View the Joint Convention brochure to learn more about its scope and processes here: [Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management | IAEA](#).

The Joint Convention brochure is available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#).

Map of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention

Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention as of December 2024 are shown in green.



Recently joined Contracting Parties

Continent	Country	Entry into Force
Asia	Iraq	19 February 2024

8. Important dates

17 December 2024

Deadline for submission of questions and comments



17 February 2025

Deadline for submission of answers

3 March 2025

Deadline for notification of participation in Country Groups



17 March 2025

Start of the Eighth Review Meeting

Newsletter Editors Working Group

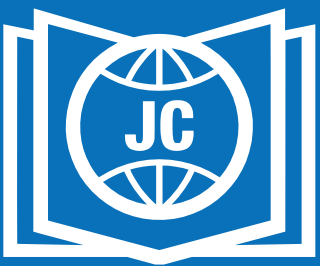
David Ulfbeck, Denmark

Merle Lust, EURATOM

Amie Robinson, USA

Amos Muzongomerwa, Zimbabwe

Nelli Aghajanyan, IAEA, JC Coordinator



Joint Convention News

Thank you to the Contracting Parties who
contributed to this issue of Joint Convention News.

Waste and Environmental Safety Section

Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety

International Atomic Energy Agency

P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Tel: 0043 1 2600 26366