

General Conference

GC(67)/1/Add.4

Date: 25 August 2023

General Distribution

Original: English

Sixty-seventh regular session

Provisional Agenda

Supplementary item for inclusion in the provisional agenda

1. On 23 August 2023, the Secretariat received a request, submitted by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, for the inclusion of an item entitled "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" in the agenda of the 67th (2023) regular session of the General Conference.
2. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference¹, this item is hereby placed on a supplementary list which will be circulated not later than 5 September 2023. The Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China and the accompanying explanatory note relating to the inclusion of this item are attached hereto.
3. It is suggested, for consideration by the General Committee, that in the provisional agenda this item follow the item circulated in document GC(67)/1/Add.3 and be discussed first in the Plenary.

¹ Rules 13 and 20, GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.



THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
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No. CPMV/2023/89

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and, in relation to the agenda item, successively adopted by consensus at Board of Governors meetings in November 2021, March, June, September, November 2022, March and June 2023, as well as the 66th General Conference, titled "**Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT**", has the honor to request that it continues to be placed on the agenda of the 67th General Conference scheduled to be held from 25 September 2023. The relevant explanatory memorandum is hereby enclosed.

It is the hope of the Permanent Mission of China that this Note, together with its relevant supporting document, will be duly circulated to all Member States in a timely manner.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 22 August 2023



The Secretariat of
International Atomic Energy Agency
VIC, Vienna 1400

Explanatory Memorandum

On September 15 2021, the US, the UK and Australia announced the creation of AUKUS, under which the US and the UK will support Australia's acquisition of nuclear powered submarines. On March 13 2023, leaders of AUKUS partners announced their cooperation plan, followed by a statement issued by Director General Grossi on the next day.

The AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation marks the first time in history for Nuclear-Weapon States to transfer nuclear powered submarine reactors and weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State with military alliance. Such cooperation crosses the threshold of nuclear proliferation, setting an unique precedent with significant challenges for the IAEA safeguards system, as well as the international nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone. Australia's request to commence negotiations with the Agency on an arrangement required under Article 14 of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) is unprecedented, and involves a series of controversial issues.

Since November 2021, the Agency's Board of Governors and the General Conference has put "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" on the agenda for eight consecutive times. Since the announcement of the AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation plan in last March, the intergovernmental discussion in the IAEA has been proceeding in further depth. Various aspects and impacts of the AUKUS cooperation was reviewed, including its impact on the historical practice of IAEA in strengthening the safeguards system, as well as the importance of adhering to the tradition of inclusiveness and consensus. There were also serious discussion among States Parties during the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 NPT Review Conference. From the above discussions, more and more IAEA Member States and NPT States Parties have realized that the AUKUS issue concerns the interests of all, and more and more different views, ideas and concerns has been expressed.

All of the above fully demonstrates the importance and necessity of continuing intergovernmental discussion process on AUKUS. Therefore, it is the hope of the Chinese Delegation that all interested IAEA Member States could further advance the open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental discussion at the 67th General Conference, with a view to facilitating all Member States in expressing their views and concerns, and upholding the IAEA safeguards system and international nuclear non-proliferation regime.