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## Information Circular

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# Communication received from the Permanent Mission of Australia concerning the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear

## **Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear – Establishment Document**

1. The Secretariat has received a communication dated 4 September 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Australia requesting that the Secretariat bring the *Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear – Establishment Document* to the attention of all Agency Member States. The document has been endorsed by the founding members of the Group: Australia, Costa Rica, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

2. As requested, the communication and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



N° 10/2017

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and has the honour to request that the IAEA Secretariat bring the attached *Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear – Establishment Document* to the attention of all IAEA Member States. This document has been endorsed by the founding members of the Group – Australia, Costa Rica, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America,.

IAEA Member States wishing to join the *Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear* are asked to advise the co-chairs of the group, being Australia and Mexico.

The Permanent Mission of Australia to the International Organisations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

VIENNA, 4 September 2017



**To:** The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency

**Attachment:** Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear – Establishment Document

## **Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear – Establishment Document**

The group of Friends for Women in Nuclear was announced on 15 June 2017 at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors (BOG). The Group has been formed to promote a collective effort to increase, through practical initiatives, the representation of women in the IAEA Secretariat.

### **Membership**

Founding members of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear are Australia, Costa Rica, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Membership in the Group is open to all member states of the IAEA upon application. A member state interested in joining the group should make their interest known to one of the Group's co-chairs.

The IAEA Secretariat has agreed to participate in the work, meetings and consultations of the Group.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Terms of Reference and objectives of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear are not fixed and are expected to evolve over time.

A permanent objective of the Group is, however, to increase to parity the representation of women in the IAEA Secretariat. To achieve this aim, the Group will develop practical initiatives able to help shape relevant IAEA practices and culture, and also the relevant practices of member states, to promote gender equality and parity, including at senior management levels.

The Group will establish a regular channel of communication with the IAEA on questions of gender and the representation of women at all levels and in all functions of the Agency's operations.

It will support the IAEA in identifying barriers to the recruitment and advancement of women and work with the Agency in looking to address these.

Members of the Group also commit themselves to:

- Improve gender equity in their own delegations to IAEA meetings;
- Work with their domestic industries and within their governments to increase the number of women available for recruitment to the IAEA; and
- Share best practice on policy and practical initiatives.

The group will complement other initiatives also aimed at raising awareness about, and realising gender parity – including the Vienna chapter of the *International Gender Champions Initiative*.

### **Meeting schedule**

The Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear will meet in advance of each Board of Governors meeting. Co-chairs will co-ordinate to organise these meetings.

### **Co-chair arrangements**

Founding co-chairs of the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear are Australia and Mexico. There are no fixed co-chair terms, and co-chair arrangements may change from time to time on agreement of the incumbent co-chairs in consultation with the broader Group.

### **Links to other groups**

Where it makes sense to do so, the Group of Friends for Women in Nuclear will seek to engage with, and will support the work of other groups with a shared interest in promoting gender equality and parity. This includes the *International Gender Champs Initiative*.