

## Information Circular

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# Communication dated 29 October 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received a communication dated 29 October 2021 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the Agency.
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission, the communication is circulated herewith.



**THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**PERMANENT MISSION IN VIENNA**

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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 Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines under AUKUS, has the honour to communicate the following:

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the US, the UK and Australia announced the creation of AUKUS, under which the US and the UK will support Australia's acquisition of at least eight conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarines. The three countries also claimed in their Note Verbale dated September 15<sup>th</sup> addressed to the IAEA that the critical objective of this trilateral cooperation would be to maintain the strength of both the nuclear non-proliferation regime and Australia's exemplary non-proliferation credentials and that they would be engaging with the IAEA throughout the coming months. In view of the above, China wishes to state its positions on this issue as follows:

1. The trilateral cooperation on nuclear-powered submarines undermines regional peace and stability, and constitutes serious risks of nuclear proliferation in contravention of the objective and purpose of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). China expresses its deep concern with and strong opposition to such a cooperation.
2. The naval nuclear propulsion reactors and their associated nuclear material to be transferred by the US and the UK to Australia cannot be effectively safeguarded under the current IAEA safeguards system. And therefore there is no guarantee that such nuclear material will not be diverted by Australia to the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The Secretariat of  
the International Atomic Energy Agency  
VIC, PO Box 100,1400 Vienna

3. The issue of safeguards on the naval nuclear propulsion reactors and their associated nuclear material of a non-nuclear-weapon State has a direct bearing on the integrity and effectiveness of the NPT, and thus is closely related to the interests of all IAEA member States. It stands to reason that all IAEA member States should participate in the discussion of this issue, in order to seek a solution that is acceptable to all sides. For that purpose, China proposes that a Special Committee open to all IAEA member States be established, to deliberate on the political, legal and technical issues related to the safeguards on naval nuclear propulsion reactors and their associated nuclear material of a non-nuclear-weapon State, and submit a report with recommendations to the Board of Governors and the General Conference of the IAEA.

4. Pending the adoption of the above-mentioned report, the US, the UK and Australia should not commence their cooperation on the nuclear-powered submarines, and the IAEA Secretariat should not engage with the three countries on the safeguards arrangements for the cooperation in question.

China requests the Secretariat of the IAEA to circulate this Note Verbale as a formal document to all member States of the IAEA.

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 the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, October 29, 2021

