

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1217

Date: 4 June 2024

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the Agency

1. On 3 June 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale, together with an attachment, from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America on behalf of Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



NOTE VERBALE

063/2024

The Permanent Mission of the United States to International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency and, on behalf of the Governments of Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom, has the honor to request that the IAEA Secretariat bring the following note verbale and the enclosed Joint Statement on the Role of Nuclear Security in Harnessing the Power of Nuclear Energy to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

At the IAEA *International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future*, the United States, as sponsor of this Joint Statement, announced that it will be open for all Member States to subscribe to the goals and commitments as

described. IAEA Member States wishing to subscribe to this Joint Statement on the Role of Nuclear Security in Harnessing the Power of Nuclear Energy are encouraged to notify the United States and inform the IAEA Secretariat via note verbale, and request such official communication be circulated as an INFCIRC document to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of the United States avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure:

As stated.

United States Mission to International Organizations in Vienna
May 31, 2024

Vienna, Austria.



JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR SECURITY IN HARNESSING THE POWER OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Recognizing the IAEA's Atoms4NetZero initiative, which supports efforts by Member States to harness the power of nuclear energy in support of a net zero carbon emissions future and to inform policymakers on the role of nuclear power as one of the reliable pillars of clean, affordable, resilient, and secure energy strategies.

Understanding that effective nuclear security and emergency preparedness and response facilitates access to, and preserves, the benefits of nuclear energy and other peaceful nuclear applications by fostering public confidence in its safe and sustainable deployment to meet energy needs, combat climate change and achieve sustainable development goals.

Recognizing that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely within that State; that all States' policies related to the use of nuclear and other radiation-based technologies should include elements of nuclear security; and that these policies need to evolve to anticipate and address new challenges posed by advanced nuclear technologies and their applications.

To this end, we commit to taking action to develop and strengthen national nuclear security infrastructure with the following recommendations:

- 1) Establish provisions to effectively address nuclear security considerations applicable to nuclear material, other radioactive material, and associated facilities and activities under a State's jurisdiction through national legal and regulatory frameworks;
- 2) Leverage the IAEA and regional institutions to share best practices and lessons learned regarding the integrity and security of national nuclear security infrastructure, and implement effective and comprehensive nuclear security and emergency preparedness and response measures at the national, local, and site levels, including during transport and storage;
- 3) Take into consideration the recommendations contained in the non-legally binding IAEA's Nuclear Security Series (NSS) 20, 13, 14, and 15 with the goal of taking nuclear security into account at all stages in the life cycle of nuclear facilities from design, siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning;
- 4) Follow the Milestones Approach developed by the IAEA in the development of national infrastructure for nuclear power and integrate nuclear security principles across all three phases: (1) Before launching a nuclear power programme, (2) preparatory work for the contracting and construction, and (3) activities to contract, license and construct are undertaken;
- 5) To prepare for the new generation of advanced and small modular reactors and ease the regulatory burden on customer States through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, encourage vendor and supplier nations to demonstrate that security by design principles have been considered in the design phase, while also taking into account interfaces with safety and safeguards throughout the lifespan of all reactors that fall under these categories.