

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety

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Working Paper submitted by Switzerland

OBJECTIVE

Considering the transboundary consequences of nuclear accidents, all States should have a common interest that the IAEA Safety Standards, developed according to the best practices and state of science and technology, are implemented worldwide.

In order to support the States in achieving this objective, it is proposed to strengthen the global system for nuclear safety based on the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) and on review missions already provided by the IAEA, namely for the assessment of their regulatory framework and activities (Integrated Regulatory Review Service IRRS), of nuclear power plants design (Integrated Safety Review ISR) and of nuclear power plants operation (Operational Safety Review Team OSART).

MODALITIES

The global system for nuclear safety shall be strengthened according to the following modalities:

Legal and Institutional Provisions

- According to a stepwise approach to globally implement as mandatory the ISR, OSART and IRRS review missions, States shall include these review missions in their regulatory framework.

Inspection Procedures

- The IAEA shall be responsible for organizing the ISR, OSART and IRRS missions, whose composition and processes remain the same.
- A mission schedule shall be set up by the IAEA so that each national supervisory authority will benefit from one IRRS mission every ten years.
- In the initial phase, ISR and OSART missions shall focus on the longest serving nuclear power plants. Accordingly, the IAEA shall propose a mission schedule which is sent to the States concerned for consultation.
- In a second phase, ISR missions to nuclear power plants shall be performed at the beginning of operation and at the transition to long-term operation (life-time extension); OSART missions to nuclear power plants shall be performed every ten years.

Reporting and Recommendations

- To ensure transparency, the ISR, OSART and IRRS mission reports shall be made public by the IAEA. Confidential information will not be disclosed. For an identical spirit of transparency, the results of the CNS review meetings, particularly the rapporteurs' reports of the country group review meetings, shall also be made public by the IAEA.
- Recommendations from the ISR, OSART and IRRS missions as well as from the CNS review meetings shall be implemented in a specified time frame given by the IAEA and in accordance with the supervisory authorities. Implementation shall be reviewed in follow-up missions.
- Within the scope of the CNS process, States shall report on their implementation of the ISR, OSART and IRRS missions as well as of the CNS review meetings recommendations.
- In case of non-fulfilment of the recommendations, the IAEA Director General shall inform the Member States of the situation.

Financial Provisions

- The Member States shall be responsible for ensuring cost coverage for the review missions to their territory.

PROCESS

The above-proposed global system for strengthening nuclear safety shall be introduced through the adoption of an additional protocol to the CNS during the 2012 special session of the Contracting Parties to the CNS dedicated to the Fukushima accident.