

Information Circular

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Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety

On principles for the implementation of the objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to prevent accidents and mitigate radiological consequences

1. The Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) meeting at the Diplomatic Conference to consider a Proposal to amend the CNS, which was held in Vienna on 9 February 2015. In the Declaration, the Contracting Parties to the CNS requested the Director General to publish the Declaration as an Information Circular for its widest dissemination including to States which are not Contracting Parties to the CNS, and the public in general.
2. In response to that request, the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety is circulated herewith.

CNS/DC/2015/2/Rev.1

February 9, 2015

Diplomatic Conference
to consider a proposal to amend the Convention on
Nuclear Safety

Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety

**On principles for the implementation of the objective of the Convention on
Nuclear Safety to prevent accidents and mitigate radiological consequences**

**Adopted by the Contracting Parties meeting at the Diplomatic Conference
of the Convention on Nuclear Safety**

Vienna, Austria

9 February 2015

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

- (i) **taking into account** the significant number of efforts and initiatives taken place after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on a national, regional and international level, to enhance nuclear safety;
- (ii) **noting** changes adopted in the Guidance Documents INFCIRC/571, 572 and 573 to strengthen the review process of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (hereinafter referred to as CNS);
- (iii) **recalling** the observations of the Contracting Parties of the CNS at the 2nd Extraordinary Meeting in 2012, confirmed at the 6th Review Meeting in 2014, that the displacement of people and the land contamination after a nuclear accident call for all national regulators to identify provisions to prevent and mitigate the potential for severe accidents with off-site consequences;
- (iv) **reaffirming** the fundamental safety principles provided by the CNS and the commitment it entails to the continuous improvement of the implementation of these principles;
- (v) **aware of** the world-wide Action Plan on Nuclear Safety endorsed by all Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency in September 2011; and,
- (vi) **having considered** the proposal by the Swiss Confederation to amend Article 18 of the CNS presented at the 6th Review Meeting of the CNS;

have adopted the following principles to guide them, as appropriate, in the implementation of the objective of the CNS to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and mitigate such consequences should they occur:

1. New nuclear power plants are to be designed, sited, and constructed, consistent with the objective of preventing accidents in the commissioning and operation and, should an accident occur, mitigating possible releases

of radionuclides causing long-term off site contamination and avoiding early radioactive releases or radioactive releases large enough to require long-term protective measures and actions.

2. Comprehensive and systematic safety assessments are to be carried out periodically and regularly for existing installations throughout their lifetime in order to identify safety improvements that are oriented to meet the above objective. Reasonably practicable or achievable safety improvements are to be implemented in a timely manner.
3. National requirements and regulations for addressing this objective throughout the lifetime of nuclear power plants are to take into account the relevant IAEA Safety Standards and, as appropriate, other good practices as identified *inter alia* in the Review Meetings of the CNS.

The Contracting Parties to the CNS further decide that:

- (1) The agenda of the 7th Review Meeting of the CNS shall under its process include a peer review of the incorporation of appropriate technical criteria and standards used by Contracting Parties for addressing these principles in national requirements and regulations, which should lead the CNS to a process of consideration of key areas to be agreed at Review Meetings for subsequent Review Meetings.
- (2) With immediate effect, these principles should be reflected in the actions of Contracting Parties, in particular when preparing their reports on the implementation of the CNS, with special focus on Article 18 as well as other relevant Articles, including Articles 6, 14, 17 and 19, starting with the national reports to be submitted by Contracting Parties for consideration during the 7th Review Meeting of the CNS.
- (3) Each national report should include *inter alia* an overview of implementation measures, planned programs and measures for the safety improvements identified for existing nuclear installations.

- (4) Contracting Parties are committing to ensuring that the safety objectives set out above form an integral part of considerations during future Review Meetings and will be used as a reference to help strengthening the peer review process of the CNS.

The Contracting Parties to the CNS request the IAEA Director General to:

- a. ***transmit*** this Declaration to the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards for its consideration with the four safety standards committees under its aegis, of the technical elements contained therein with a view to incorporating them as appropriate into the relevant IAEA Safety Standards; and
- b. ***publish*** this Declaration as an INFCIRC for its widest dissemination including to States which are not Contracting Parties to the CNS, and the public in general.