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IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

13 – 17 December 2021

Announcement and Call for Papers

A.   Background

Transport of nuclear and radioactive materials is a vital activity that enables Member States to meet the growing global demand for the use of radioactive material and nuclear energy in our societies. The role of Transport is captured in international conventions, in IAEA standards and guidelines, and in legal instruments of Member States thereby providing multiple anchor points for sustainable transport, in the context of regulations, both safety and security, public transport systems, transport affordability, efficiency and convenience, as well as to improve the regulatory framework and infrastructure. The transport of nuclear and radioactive materials, both nationally and internationally, involves moving products that are essential for public health, manufacturing, agriculture and energy production. Developing robust, effective and appropriate transport safety and transport security infrastructures, either separately or combined, is a challenge for Member States, in areas of (1) development and implementation of a national legal regime; (2) development and issue of transport safety and transport security regulations, either separately or combined; (3) establishment of a competent authority at national level that has the legally delegated or invested powers to issue authorizations, perform compliance monitoring and has powers of enforcement with respect to the aforementioned national laws and regulations; and (4) development of competencies of the authority to achieve the sustained delivery of effective regulatory oversight.

B.   Objectives

The objective of the conference is to provide an opportunity for Member States to further develop their understanding of the issues relating to transport safety, transport security and the interface between, to inform their work to develop or strengthen their transport safety and security regulatory infrastructures.

National and regional needs from the regulator and operator viewpoints will feature in the conference. There will be also the opportunity to discuss and recommend improvements to the IAEA programmes that are designed to support Member States' work to develop their transport safety and transport security infrastructures.

To achieve its objective, the conference will:

- Facilitate the international exchange of good and appropriate practices for the safe and secure transport of nuclear and radioactive materials;

- Identify the challenges related to safety and security during transport, and their interface; including recent experiences with COVID 19*;*

- Provide a forum to share good and appropriate practices in addressing the challenges;

- Identify opportunities, such as the provision of Agency assistance to support the Member States in its development of a comprehensive and appropriate transport safety and security framework; and

- The Agency and Member States to use the inputs of the conference to inform the development of mechanisms for coordinating and enhancing the interface between transport safety and transport security interface in transport.

Participants are encouraged not to discuss any sensitive nuclear security information.

C.   Themes and Topics

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the overall themes and associated topics for the conference will be related to the challenges faced by Member States when they are developing robust, effective and appropriate transport safety and transport security infrastructures, either separately or combined, namely:

1.   **International framework for transport safety and transport security**

    (a) Intergovernmental organisations involved in the international framework for the transport of nuclear and radioactive material will be invited to give an insight of their work;

2. **National regulatory framework for the transport of nuclear and radioactive materials**

   (a) Development of National Regulations, including combined transport safety and transport security regulations;

   (b) Establishing competent authorities and effective regulatory oversight regimes;

   (c) Capacity building; with respect to transport safety and transport security regimes

   (d) Proposing mechanisms for coordinating and enhancing the interface between safety and security in transport;

   (e) Sustainability of transport safety and transport security regimes;

   (f) Inspections

      (i) Safety inspections

      (ii) Security inspections

      (iii) Joint safety and security inspections

   (g) Safety and security exercises including exercises on emergency preparedness and response

   (h) Tools and methods for evaluating effectiveness of transport safety and security regime/system

   (i) Graded approach

   (j) Transport of nuclear radioactive material: practices, challenges and regulatory issues

   (i) Issuing Authorisations (safety and security)

   (j) Identify opportunities, such as legal and technical assistance to assist Member States in the development, amendment or revision of a comprehensive framework on the implementation of a safety and security transport infrastructure

3. **Industry perspective of implementing transport safety and security regulatory requirements**

   (a) Sharing good and appropriate practices developed in Member States, to address the challenges during implementation;

   (b) Identifying challenges related to safety and security in transport, and their interface;

   (c) Challenges for international shipments and implementation of national regulations

   (d) Harmonization of regulations

   (e) Consequences of conflicting communications/requirements between transport safety and transport security regulators

   (f) Implications of no safety and security interface

4. **Sustainability of safety and security regime**

    (a)   Development of competencies of a competent authority to achieve the sustained delivery of effective regulatory oversight.

    (b)   Possible scenarios and resources for cooperation in improving the transport safety and security interface at national and regional levels

    (c)   Establishing possible scenarios and resources for cooperation in improving the transport safety and security interface at national and regional levels

    (d)   Promotion of safety and security cultures

    (e)   Capacity building

    (f)   To improve the effectiveness of Member State capacity building programmes for transport safety and security infrastructures

    (g)   To develop and strengthen regional networks

    (h)   To raise awareness of the need for transparency and security of information

5. **Emerging technologies**

    (a)   Increasing capability to use technology in transport operations now and in the future;

    (b)   The use of technology within the regulatory framework;

    (c)   Cyber security (safety and security interface);

    (d)   Reduced physical intervention, benefits and gaps.

6. **International cooperation and regional approach**

    (a)   Elaboration and development of existing networks in each region

    (b)   Development of new regional safety and security networks

    (c)   Regional working groups to discuss (1) *Land Border Crossing: Issues and Proposed Solutions.* and (2) *Cooperation/Collaboration: National and International Networks.*

    (d)   Information exchange; good practices and mutual assistance

D. Structure

The conference will consist of:

    1.   An opening plenary session with invited papers presented by experts

    2.   Parallel technical sessions on the topics related to the six (6) themes described in Section C with Rapporteur feedback to plenary of each parallel session,

3. Regional working group sessions (as listed under section C, theme 6, point C). A detailed framework for the working group discussions will be sent to designated participants before the conference to facilitate their preparations for discussions

4. On the final day a concluding plenary session with a President's report

Topics for Technical Session

The final determination of the number and scope of the technical sessions will be based on the nature and number of abstracts received. It is anticipated that the technical sessions may deal with diverse subjects as listed in Section C. The abstracts on the technical topics listed therein should be submitted following the guidance given in Section G.

E. Target Audience

The conference is aimed at participants who are responsible for nuclear policy and for the technical and legal aspects of transport safety and transport security. This includes officials, policymakers and operational stakeholders responsible for transport safety and security, as well as experts and representatives from a wide range of technical disciplines and specialist organizations that contribute to the safety and security of nuclear and radioactive material during its transport, including technical support organizations, law enforcement and border control agencies.

It is expected that representatives from industry and civil society, including from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, will also participate in the conference.

The IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of women, early career professionals and individuals from developing countries.

The target audience includes:

- Policy and decision makers within national governments;

- National transport safety regulators, transport security regulators;

- Technical support organizations;

- Intergovernmental organization and Non-governmental organizations; and

- Industry representatives that have duties and responsibilities in the transport of nuclear and radioactive material

F.   Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be a member of an organization that has been invited to attend. The list of IAEA Member States and invited organizations is available on the event website (see Section P).

Registration through InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ web page (https://intouchplus.iaea.org):

- Participants with an existing NUCLEUS account can **sign in here** with their username and password;
- Participants without an existing NUCLEUS account can **register here**.

2. Once signed in, participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:

- Complete or update their personal details under 'Basic Profile' (if no financial support is requested) or under 'Complete Profile' (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
- Search for the relevant event (EVT1902956) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
- Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
- If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information; (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through InTouch+, the application will be transmitted automatically to the required authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority). If approved the application will automatically be sent to the IAEA.

NOTE: Should participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section N).

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

If it is not possible to submit your application through the InTouch+ platform, participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via e-mail: Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

G. Abstracts and Proceedings

G.1. Submission of Abstracts

Anyone wishing to present a paper at the conference must submit an abstract (on one of the topics from the 6 themes (see Section C)) of 150 words in electronic format through the conference's web browser-based file submission system (IAEA-INDICO) between **1 February 2021** and ~~**30 April 2021**~~ **15 July 2021**. No other form of submission will be accepted.

In addition, authors must submit the following two forms through their competent national authority using the InTouch+ Platform (see Section F) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **15 July 2021**:

- Participation Form (Form A)
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)

IMPORTANT: The electronically received abstracts will be considered by the Programme Committee only if these two forms have been received by IAEA through the established official channels (see Section F).

G.2. Proceedings

The President's Final Report, including papers from Member States, the working group summaries, conference findings, conclusions and recommendations, will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the conference.

G.3. Submission of Full Papers and Presentations

Only authors of papers selected for oral presentation are requested to submit a full paper. Full papers must be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the full papers will be made available on IAEA-INDICO. The deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as both PDF and Word files is **8 October 2021**.

Authors of papers selected for oral presentation, interactive content presentation and poster presentation are requested to submit their presentation through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of presentations will be made available on IAEA-INDICO. The deadline for electronic submission of presentations as both PDF and PowerPoint files is **8 October 2021**.

IMPORTANT: The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of full papers and presentations. Authors are encouraged to submit papers and presentations as early as possible.

H.   Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme of the conference will be made available on the conference web page before the start of the conference. The final programme will be made available through the conference app in the week preceding the conference and the conference web page.

I.   Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee will be charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not able to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section F). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1.   Submitted by ~~30 April~~ **15 July 2021**;

2.   Accompanied by Grant Application Form (Form C); and

3.   Accompanied by Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually **covers only part of the cost of attendance**.

J. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretaries (see Section O) by email at TransportConference2021@iaea.org by **16 April 2021**.

K.   Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications and papers must be sent to the IAEA in English.

L.   Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Vienna International Centre, where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for conference participants will be listed on the conference web page (see Section P). Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-bookings and no shows.

Detailed information on accommodation and other relevant matters will be made available on the conference web page as soon as possible.

M.   Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least eight weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question. Designated participants will be required to submit a letter of invitation in support of their visa application.

N.   Key Dates and Deadlines

Opening of abstracts submission through IAEA-INDICO	**1 February 2021**
Closing of abstracts submission through IAEA-INDICO	**15 July 2021**
Deadline for submission of the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and the Participation Form (Form A) through the competent national authority using the InTouch+ platform	**15 July 2021**
Deadline for submission of the Grant Application Form (Form C), together with Form A, through the competent national authority using the InTouch+ Platform	**15 July 2021**
Notification of acceptance of abstracts	**31 August 2021**
Deadline for electronic submission of full papers (10 pages maximum)	**8 October 2021**
Registration only (no paper submission, no grant request) using Form A	**No deadline**

O.   Conference Secretariat

General postal address and contact details of the IAEA:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

P.   Conference Web Page

Please visit the IAEA conference webpage regularly for new information regarding this conference.