

# General Conference

**GC(68)/1/Add.2**

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**General Distribution**

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## Sixty-eighth regular session

# Provisional agenda

## Supplementary item for inclusion in the provisional agenda

1. On 12 August 2024, the Secretariat received a request, submitted by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, for the inclusion of an item entitled "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" in the agenda of the 68th (2024) regular session of the General Conference.
2. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference<sup>1</sup>, this item is hereby placed on a supplementary list which will be circulated not later than 24 August 2024. The letter from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China and the accompanying explanatory memorandum relating to the inclusion of this item are attached hereto.
3. It is suggested, for consideration by the General Committee, that this item follow the item circulated in GC(68)/1/Add.1 and be discussed in the Plenary.

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<sup>1</sup> Rules 13 and 20, GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.



中华人民共和国常驻维也纳联合国和其他国际组织代表团  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

No. CPMV/2024/121

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 agenda item, successively adopted by consensus at Board of Governors meetings since November 2021, as well as the 66<sup>th</sup> and the 67<sup>th</sup> General Conference, titled "**Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT**", has the honor to request that it continues to be placed on the agenda of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Conference scheduled to be held from 16 September 2024. The relevant explanatory memorandum is hereby enclosed.

It is the hope of the Permanent Mission of China that this Note, together with its relevant supporting document, will be duly circulated to all Member States in a timely manner.

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 IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 12 August 2024



The Secretariat of  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
VIC, Vienna 1400

## **Explanatory Memorandum**

In September 2021, the US, the UK and Australia announced the creation of AUKUS, under which the US and the UK will support Australia's acquisition of nuclear powered submarines.

The AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation marks the first time in history for Nuclear-Weapon States to transfer nuclear powered submarine reactors and weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State as their military ally. Such cooperation, which crosses the threshold of nuclear proliferation, setting a unique precedent with significant challenges for the IAEA safeguards system as well as the international nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT as its cornerstone, is clearly not a routine and peaceful safeguards project between Non-Nuclear-Weapon State and the IAEA Secretariat. In that context, Australia's request to commence negotiations with the Agency on an arrangement required under Article 14 of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) is unprecedented, and involves a series of controversial issues.

Since November 2021, the intergovernmental discussions about AUKUS have continuously deepened. The Agency's Board of Governors and the General Conference has put "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" on the agenda for thirteen consecutive times. There were also serious discussion among States Parties during the First and Second Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT, as well as two workshops hosted by the Permanent Mission of China since May 2023. Various aspects and impacts of the AUKUS cooperation were reviewed in the above discussions, including its impact on the historical practice of IAEA in strengthening the safeguards system and the importance of adhering to the tradition of inclusiveness and consensus. More and more IAEA Member States and NPT States Parties have realized that the AUKUS issue concerns the interests of all, and more and more different views, ideas and concerns has been expressed.

All of the above fully demonstrates the importance and necessity of continuing intergovernmental discussion process on AUKUS. Therefore, it is the hope of the Chinese Delegation that all interested IAEA Member States could further advance the open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental discussion at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Conference, with a view to facilitating all Member States in expressing their views and concerns, and upholding the IAEA safeguards system and international nuclear non-proliferation regime.