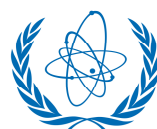




CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY (CNS)

**Introduction to the CNS and Its Associated
Rules of Procedure and Guidelines**



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Nuclear Safety (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”) was adopted in Vienna on 17 June 1994 and entered into force on 24 October 1996. The objectives of the Convention are to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide, to establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards, and to prevent accidents having radiological consequences.

The Convention was drawn up in the aftermath of the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents at a series of expert level meetings from 1992 to 1994, and was the result of considerable work by States, including their national regulatory and nuclear safety authorities, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which serves as the Secretariat for the Convention.

The obligations of the Contracting Parties are based to a large extent on the application of the safety principles for nuclear installations contained in the IAEA document Safety Fundamentals ‘The Safety of Nuclear Installations’ (IAEA Safety Series No. 110 published 1993). These obligations cover the legislative and regulatory framework, the regulatory body, and technical safety obligations related to, for instance, siting, design, construction, operation, the availability of adequate financial and human resources, the assessment and verification of safety, quality assurance and emergency preparedness.

The Convention is an incentive instrument that commits Contracting Parties to submit reports on the implementation of their obligations for peer review at periodic meetings. The process of presenting the National Report at the Review Meeting and answering questions from the other

Contracting Parties helps each Contracting Party to achieve a high level of safety in its civil nuclear programme.

This peer review process is the main innovative, incentive and dynamic element of the Convention.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTRACTING PARTY

Any sovereign State may become a Contracting Party; membership of the IAEA is not mandatory.

In addition, a regional organization of an integration or other nature may become a Contracting Party, provided that it is constituted by sovereign States and has competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by this Convention. Such an organization shall not hold any vote additional to the votes of its Member States.

SCOPE

The scope of the Convention encompasses any land-based civil nuclear power plant under a Contracting Party's jurisdiction, including such storage, handling and treatment facilities for radioactive materials as are on the same site and are directly related to the operation of the nuclear power plant.

STATUS

As of 15 September 2009, there were 66 Contracting Parties. All countries with operating nuclear power plants are now Parties to the Convention. Thirteen Signatory States have not yet ratified the Convention.

The current status can be found at:

http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/nuclearsafety_status.pdf

PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION

With each new Contracting Party, the Convention gains strength and can better serve as a means of ensuring nuclear safety worldwide.

At the 4th Review Meeting (held in April 2008) it was decided that the participating Contracting Parties and the IAEA would engage with other Contracting Parties that have not been participating in the review process, to encourage them to participate in the 5th Review Meeting (to be held in April 2011). Signatory States should also be encouraged to ratify the Convention. Contracting Parties should work with those countries planning to launch a nuclear power programme to convince them of the benefits of joining the Convention.

SECRETARIAT

According to Article 28 of the Convention, the Vienna-based IAEA, part of the United Nations System of Organizations, serves as the Secretariat for the Convention (hereinafter referred to as “the Secretariat”). Its main duty is to convene, prepare and service the meetings of the Contracting Parties. Meetings shall take place at the seat of the Secretariat, unless

the Contracting Parties decide otherwise. To date, all meetings have taken place in Vienna.

Communication between the Contracting Parties is managed by the Secretariat through the diplomatic channels. Notification of a meeting and of other important information or requests is usually made by a 'note verbale' sent by the Secretariat to the Permanent Missions of the Contracting Parties. For practical reasons, and to ensure the timeliness of information, this is supported by electronic mail to the National Contact Points and by the placement of such information on the CNSWeb, a dedicated secure web site provided by the Secretariat. Communication among the National Contact Points of the Contracting Parties and with the Secretariat using electronic mail is a vital element of the peer review process.

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

The National Contact Point serves as the main node of communication among Contracting Parties and between the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties.

For each Contracting Party, one person is nominated to act as the National Contact Point. The name of that person is provided to the Secretariat through the official channels. The National Contact Point has a variety of tasks to fulfil, in particular:

- Receiving information from the Secretariat and forwarding it to the relevant and responsible organization(s) or person(s) within the Contracting Party;
- Functioning as a communication and information focal point at all times, not just in connection with the Review Meeting;
- Monitoring documents and comments uploaded to the CNSWeb;
- Uploading the National Report to the CNSWeb;
- Uploading to the CNSWeb the questions and comments related to the National Reports of other Contracting Parties;
- Uploading to the CNSWeb the answers to questions received by other Contracting Parties;
- Reporting in a timely manner all changes in his/her country that might affect the peer review process (e.g. changes in addresses, names and functions).

These roles and responsibilities make the National Contact Point an important part of the peer review process of the Convention. Although

the National Contact Point is not an Officer of the Review Meeting under the Convention, his or her timely work is essential within the process.

BENEFITS OF THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

The Convention benefits Contracting Parties by:

- Fostering an international approach to the safety of nuclear power plants and the sharing of expertise in this area. In this regard, the peer review process:
 - Provides a unique overview of the assessment of nuclear safety worldwide;
 - Encourages continuing improvement in nuclear safety;
 - Fosters identification of globally acknowledged good practices, challenges, trends and issues;
 - Provides an excellent forum for sharing experience and for international co-operation among regulators and between regulators and the industry;
 - Improves transparency and openness about nuclear safety through publication of National Reports by individual Contracting Parties;
 - Allows for collective 'learning by experience'.
- Assuring the public that national arrangements for the safety of nuclear power plants conform to international standards. In this regard, the peer review process:
 - Provides a peer review of each Contracting Party's national nuclear safety programme in a challenging but constructive atmosphere;

- Provides a structure and time-bound process for a national self-assessment;
 - Provides an external acknowledgment of good practices;
 - Encourages early identification of challenges and provides advice regarding their prioritization and the means to address them;
 - Provides access to a wealth of experience on nuclear safety issues worldwide (particularly helpful for countries just embarking on a nuclear programme).
- Increasing assistance opportunities for those Contracting Parties with limited resources, to meet infrastructure development needs.

NATIONAL REPORT

For each Review Meeting, each Contracting Party has to prepare a National Report on the implementation of the obligations under the Convention. The National Report comprises in general the entire national nuclear safety programme. If the Contracting Party has no nuclear programme, the report can be short in nature. Preparing such a comprehensive report has helped to significantly improve nuclear safety for the following reasons:

- Preparing the first National Report provides a comprehensive assessment of the 'nuclear safety situation' in each country by addressing the issues of the articles of the Convention.
- Subsequent National Reports are based on their predecessors and provide a continuous self-assessment of the steps and measures already taken, those in progress and future activities, in order to enhance nuclear safety.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Each Contracting Party is given a reasonable opportunity to discuss the National Reports submitted by other Contracting Parties and to seek clarification of such reports (Article 20). It is vital to the peer review process that each Contracting Party take an active part in an open and transparent review of its own National Report and of the National Reports of other Contracting Parties. The main tool in this regard is the submission of comments and questions on the National Reports of other Contracting Parties and the provision of answers to questions from other Contracting Parties.

In addition, the Contracting Parties give an oral presentation of their reports, the questions received and the answers given during their respective Country Group Sessions of the Review Meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To enable an incentive review process based on mutual trust and respect, the content of the debates during the presentation of the National Reports by the Contracting Parties at each Review Meeting shall be confidential. Therefore, the National Reports prepared by the Contracting Parties are also considered to be confidential. However, most Contracting Parties make their reports available to the public, in many cases by placing them on the Internet to promote transparency in their regulatory processes.

All National Reports and other confidential documents and related communication are available to the Contracting Parties on CNSWeb.

RULES OF PROCEDURE AND GUIDELINES

Following the entry into force of the Convention, a Preparatory Meeting was held to adopt Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, and other associated documents called for under Article 22 of the Convention in order to support the peer review process. There are three supporting documents:

- (1) *Guidelines regarding the Review Process under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (INFCIRC/571)*

This document provides guidance on how the peer review process is best managed.

- (2) *Guidelines regarding National Reports under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (INFCIRC/572)*

This document describes what should be contained in the National Reports that have to be prepared by each Contracting Party for review by the other Contracting Parties at the Review Meetings.

- (3) *Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/573)*

This document sets out the general rules of procedure and financial rules for the peer review process under the Convention.

These documents can be modified, by consensus, by the Contracting Parties at their meetings. The most recent versions can be found on the IAEA web site at:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/conventions/nuclear-safety.htm>

III. THE REVIEW PROCESS

Being a Contracting Party to the Convention implies a commitment to certain obligations, namely:

- Preparation of a National Report;
- Review and submission of questions on the National Reports of other Contracting Parties;
- Provision of answers to the questions submitted by other Contracting Parties;
- Active participation in Organizational and Review Meetings.

These obligations are governed by a prescribed schedule to enable all Contracting Parties to take part in the process. The peer review process is based on a three year cycle, defined according to Article 21(3) of the Convention.

Although organized in a cyclic manner, the peer review process implies a commitment to a continuous learning and improving process.

REVIEW SCHEDULE

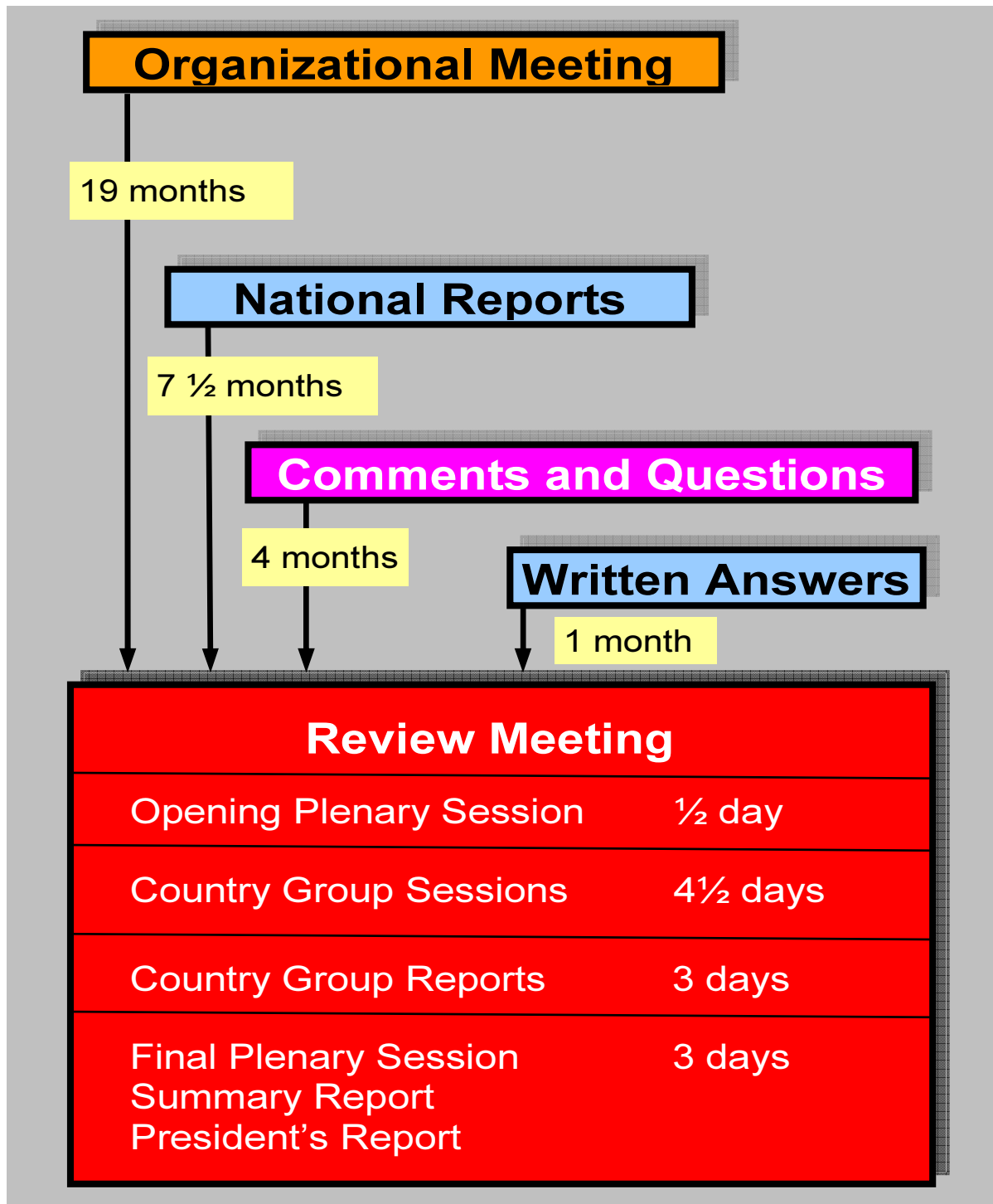
The review schedule of the Convention has been modified several times since 1999 to incorporate experience gained and to address identified needs.

The 1st Review Meeting took place in Vienna from 12 to 23 April 1999; the 4th Review Meeting took place from 14 to 25 April 2008.

The schedule for the peer review, as approved during the 4th Review Meeting, is shown in Table 1

TABLE 1. REVIEW SCHEDULE

Months prior to the Review Meeting	Event
T – 36	Previous Review Meeting
T - 19	Organizational Meeting to assign Country Groups and elect Officers, i.e. a President, two Vice-Presidents, and Country Group Officers (Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Rapporteurs and Co-ordinators for each Country Group) for the subsequent Convention Review Meeting
T - 7.5	Deadline for submission of National Reports by each Contracting Party (available on CNSWeb)
T - 4	Deadline for submission of written questions on the National Reports of all Contracting Parties (available on CNSWeb)
T - 1.5	Officers Meeting
T - 1	Deadline for answers to written questions submitted by each Contracting Party (available on CNSWeb)
T = 0	Review Meeting



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

An Organizational Meeting is held prior to each Review Meeting. This meeting used to take place approximately six and a half months prior to the Review Meeting. At the 4th Review Meeting, in April 2008, it was

decided to hold the Organizational Meeting for the 5th Review Meeting 19 months prior to the 5th Review Meeting (see Table 1).

The objectives of the Organizational Meeting are to:

- Elect the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Review Meeting;
- Establish Country Groups;
- Elect the Country Group Chairpersons and Rapporteurs, and assign them to Country Groups ensuring that no Chairperson or Rapporteur is assigned to the Country Group of which his or her Country is a member;
- Elect Country Group Vice-Chairpersons and Co-ordinators;
- Recommend a budget for the Review Meeting on the basis of cost estimates provided by the Secretariat;
- Consider any other matters relevant to implementation of the Convention, to the extent that they were resolved at the previous Review Meeting;
- Decide on a provisional timetable for the Review Meeting;
- Suggest topics that could warrant special attention by the Contracting Parties in preparing their upcoming National Reports;
- Decide whether to organize a topical session at the Review Meeting, to address more specifically any particular topic that may not be thoroughly considered within the Country Group arrangements, on a voluntary basis.

The Country Groups are established according to the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/573) and the Guidelines regarding the

Review Process (INFCIRC/571) using a ‘tennis seeding method’ as follows:

The Contracting Parties participating in a Review Meeting shall be ranked by:

- The number of nuclear installations expected to be in operation at the time of the Organizational Meeting, then in descending order:
- The number of nuclear installations closed; and
- The number of nuclear installations under construction.

Where these numbers are the same in each of the categories, the Contracting Parties shall be listed in alphabetical order.

Based on this ranking, the Contracting Parties shall be divided into Country Groups. The distribution among the Country Groups of those Contracting Parties that do not have nuclear installations shall be agreed by the Contracting Parties at the Organizational Meeting on an alphabetical basis, starting with a randomly selected letter and using the first letter of each Contracting Party’s name as it is spelled in English. To facilitate this process, the Secretariat has developed an algorithm for establishing the Country Groups.

The Organizational Meeting is open for attendance by all Contracting Parties.

OFFICERS OF THE REVIEW MEETING

As provided by the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, Officers of the Review Meeting are:

- The President.
- The two Vice-Presidents.

- For each Country Group:
 - The Chairperson;
 - The Vice-Chairperson;
 - The Rapporteur;
 - The Co-ordinator.

The roles and responsibilities of the Officers are described in Annex II to the Guidelines regarding the Review Process, and are provided in Annex I to this brochure. The main functions of the Officers are as follows:

- **President**

The President of the Review Meeting directs and oversees the review process and the functioning of the Review Meeting. His/her prime responsibility is to preside at the Plenary Sessions of the Review Meeting. The President chairs the General Committee. Together with the Rapporteurs, the President prepares a draft Summary Report to be adopted at a Plenary Session. In addition, the President prepares a separate President's Report. Moreover, the President represents the Contracting Parties attending the Review Meeting to the media.

- **Vice-President**

The Vice-President(s) of the Review Meeting replace(s) the President if and when necessary and assist(s) the President as appropriate (e.g. chairing meetings of the groups and committees), on the President's request.

- **Country Group Chairperson**

The Country Group Chairperson's prime responsibility is to chair and generally manage the Country Group Sessions. He/she has to

participate in Plenary Meeting in order to implement, in his/her Country Group, the decisions of the Plenary Session. Moreover, the Chairperson should stimulate the discussions in the Country Group Session and support the Rapporteur in the preparation of the Working Document and the Country Group Summary Report (i.e. the Rapporteur's Report). The Country Group Chairperson is a member of the General Committee.

- **Country Group Vice-Chairperson**

The Country Group Vice-Chairperson replaces the Country Group Chairperson in any of the duties of the Chairperson, as needed, and supports the Rapporteur in the preparation of the Working Document and the Country Group Summary Report (i.e. the Rapporteur's Report).

- **Rapporteur**

The Rapporteur has a key function within the peer review process. His/her prime responsibility is to produce a report in accordance with the format, timing and other details, as directed by the President and/or the General Committee. In doing this, he/she should generally note the discussion of each of these National Reports in the Country Group Sessions. The Rapporteur produces a Working Document that highlights topics and issues that are agreed by the Country Group to be good practices or areas where follow-up at a subsequent Review Meeting would be desirable.

The Rapporteur has to present to the Plenary Session of the Review Meeting an oral report (Country Group Summary Report, Rapporteur's Report) that summarizes the discussions that took place in the Country Group and their conclusions. The visual part of

that Country Group Summary Report is made available to all Contracting Parties.

- **Co-ordinator**

The Co-ordinator's prime responsibility is to analyse the National Reports of the Country Group as well as all written questions and comments submitted prior to the Review Meeting. He/she groups these comments and questions according to the Convention's articles. In doing so, the Co-ordinator should identify any trends, major themes and issues arising from these questions and comments. This should be done with objectivity and in accordance with the prescribed timetables and in agreed formats to ensure consistency. The Co-ordinator is to provide his/her analysis two months prior to the Review Meeting. The Co-ordinator also supports the Chairperson in communicating with the members of the Country Group, and follows up with National Contacts in the event of missed deadlines. At the Country Group Sessions, the Co-ordinator supports the Chairperson in addressing all major themes and issues arising from the analysis of questions and comments during discussions of the respective National Report.

The Officers are considered the 'backbone' of the peer review process. During the 4th Review Meeting, the Contracting Parties agreed that Officers appointed at one Organizational Meeting would remain in these roles until they were replaced at the next Organizational Meeting, thus serving essentially a three-year term of office. When possible, there should be at least one Officer in each Country Group who has previous experience as an Officer under the Convention.

In the Guidelines regarding the Review Process, it is stated that in due time before the Organizational Meeting, Contracting Parties are urged to

submit to the Secretariat the names of candidates and alternates that they wish to be considered for election to the positions of Officers. The candidates should be chosen on the basis of, inter alia, expertise, impartiality and availability.

OFFICERS TURN-OVER MEETING

During the 4th Review Meeting, the Contracting Parties decided that the Secretariat should organize a brief Officers 'turn-over' meeting, where incoming and outgoing Officers of the Review Meeting can exchange their experience by describing the process in detail, including key documents, and thus contribute to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the peer review process through direct knowledge transfer between the Officers involved.

OFFICERS MEETING

According to Annex I (2) to the Guidelines regarding the Review Process, meetings of the Officers prior to each Review Meeting have proven effective and helpful in conducting the process. Although these meetings are not required by the Guidelines regarding the Review Process, the Organizational Meeting decides on the conduct of such Officers Meetings.

About one and a half months prior to the Review Meeting, all Officers and the Secretariat meet to consider the overall approach and the final preparations for the Review Meeting. The Secretariat gives general information on the preparation for the Review Meeting, such as logistical and organizational matters, as well as procedural proposals to be dealt with by the Contracting Parties. The Country Group Co-ordinators

provide an objective analysis of the questions received by the members of the respective Country Group, identifying any trends in the questions and comments of Contracting Parties concerning the National Reports. The Country Group Chairpersons discuss and agree on how to conduct the Country Group Sessions during the Review Meeting. The meeting is usually chaired by the President of the Review Meeting, with the assistance of the two Vice-Presidents. At the end of the Officers Meeting, a report to the Review Meeting is prepared.

REVIEW MEETING

Review Meetings are held every three years, in accordance with Article 21 (3) of the Convention, and provide the opportunity to discuss the National Reports of all Contracting Parties.

During the first decade after the Convention was drawn up, the focus of the Review Meetings was on specific technical safety issues of concern. During these years it was demonstrated that technical lessons had been learned and that safety improvements had been or were being implemented.

The challenge for the next decade is to continue this process by avoiding complacency on the part of both the regulatory authorities and the licence holders. Priority is being given to promoting effective safety management systems.

Today, Contracting Parties are focusing on the continuous improvement of nuclear safety in their countries. In achieving that goal, a long-standing commitment to and vigilance concerning safety at all organizational levels is necessary. Effective mechanisms for the early detection and assessment of problems and, most importantly, efficient networks and systems to share the lessons learned have to be established. Enhanced

use of the Convention and its communication channels is essential to attaining this goal.

The rules require each Contracting Party participating in the Review Meeting to be represented by one delegate, who can be accompanied by such alternate representatives, experts and advisers as may be required. The languages of the Review Meetings are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, unless otherwise provided in the Rules of Procedure.

The Review Meeting consists of three main parts:

1. Opening Plenary Session

The Opening Plenary Session is a relatively short session for discussing necessary procedural matters, including the examination of the delegates' credentials, with regard to that conduct of the Review Meeting. National statements are possible and are acceptable in written form only, according to the Rules of Procedure.

2. Country Group Sessions

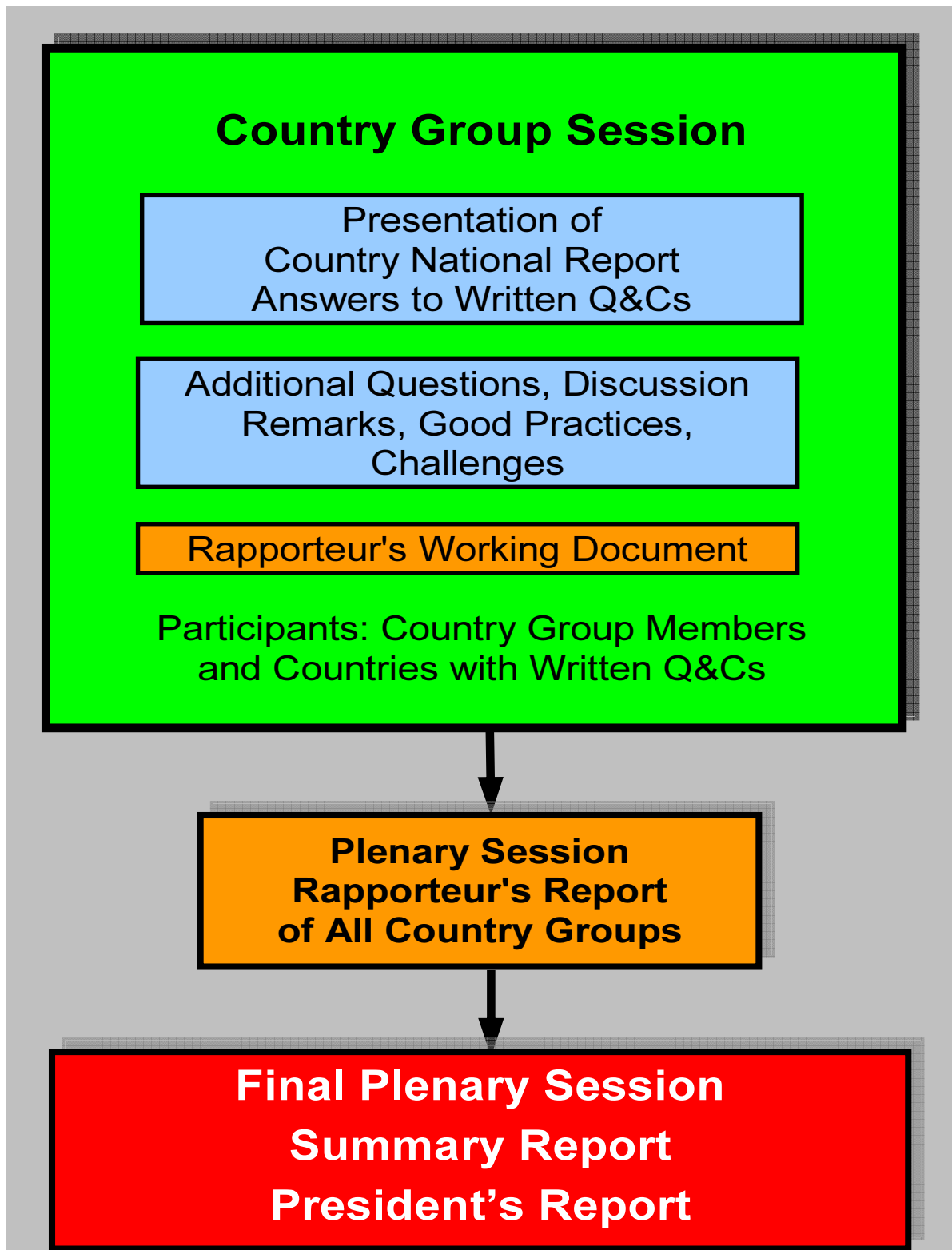
After the Opening Plenary Session, the Contracting Parties split into Country Groups for the purpose of reviewing in depth the National Reports of the other Contracting Parties within the group. The Country Group Sessions usually require six days.

The Contracting Parties assigned to each Country Group participate as full members at all sessions of that group. Other Contracting Parties, in particular, those that have posted substantial questions concerning the National Report of the Contracting Party under review, participate as regulated by the guidelines and the Rules of Procedure.

Each Country Group reviews the National Reports of its members in a consistent and objective manner, as a basis for assessing safety. The peer review process commences with the distribution of all National Reports seven months prior to the Review Meeting, and with the posting of comments and questions on the CNSWeb. Thus it can be expected that the Country Group Sessions will focus on the reported changes and the actual situation. Usually, the sessions start with an oral report by the Contracting Party under review. For this report, a template for structuring the desired information has been developed.

The Rapporteur of each Country Group notes the discussion results and prepares a Working Document for that session. All Contracting Parties that participated in a Country Group Session have the opportunity to discuss and provide input to this Working Document. The final version of this document is agreed by the Country Group members, taking into account all the input received. Taking all Working Documents created at all sessions of the Country Group, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur will, following discussion with the Country Group members, finalize the Country Group's Summary Report (i.e. the Rapporteur's Report), to be presented at a Plenary Session of the Review Meeting by the Country Group's Rapporteur. The Contracting Parties have agreed on a common template to be used by the Rapporteur to ensure consistency between the Country Group Reports.

The Secretary retains these Rapporteur Reports and sends them in due time to the President, Vice-Presidents, Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the next Review Meeting to prepare the Country Group Sessions. In addition, the visual parts of the Rapporteur Reports (e.g. slide presentations) are placed on the CNSWeb site.



– **General Committee**

During the Review Meeting, a General Committee is established to assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Review Meeting.

It is composed of the President (Chairperson), the two Vice-Presidents and the Chairpersons of the Country Groups. No two members of the General Committee shall be members of the same delegation. If the President is unable to attend a session of the General Committee, he or she may designate one of the Vice-Presidents to preside at that session.

Staff members of the Secretariat, usually the legal advisor, the secretary and the scientific secretary, and the pen of the Convention, are also invited to this meeting, as appropriate.

– **Open Ended Working Group**

An Open Ended Working Group is usually established by the Contracting Parties at the Opening Plenary Session of the Review Meeting. The sessions of the Open Ended Working Group usually take place during the first week of the Review Meeting at the end of each day. According to the current practice, the Open Ended Working Group is usually chaired by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Review Meeting.

The purpose of the Open Ended Working Group is to discuss and further develop the proposals that have been submitted by the Contracting Parties prior to or during the Review Meeting.

The proposals are generally directed at further improving the openness, transparency and effectiveness of the peer review process and sometimes require the amendment of the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and the associated guidelines.

Once the Contracting Parties have reached an agreement on the proposals, these are forwarded to the Plenary Session.

3. Final Plenary Session

At the Final Plenary Session of the Review Meeting, each Country Group Rapporteur makes an oral report of the results of the Country Group Sessions. For each Contracting Party in turn, the report should provide a balanced summary of the views expressed during the Country Group discussions, include points of agreement and disagreement, identify good practices as well as any areas of concern, and spell out the main themes or topics identified for discussion at the Final Plenary Session.

After this presentation, each Contracting Party has an opportunity to respond to the comments made on its National Report. In addition, other Contracting Parties can comment on National Reports and on the Rapporteur's oral presentation.

The Final Plenary Session also discusses any procedural matters proposed by the Contracting Parties relevant to the implementation of the Convention. Modifications to the Rules of Procedure and to the guidelines are to be adopted by the Contracting Parties by consensus.

The Plenary Session discusses and adopts, by consensus, the Summary Report of the Review Meeting. This document addresses the issues discussed and the conclusions reached during the meeting. The Summary Report will be made available to the public.

Finally, the Plenary Session takes note of the President's Report of the Review Meeting, which summarizes all observations on the conduct of the meeting, the conclusions of the Open Ended Working Group and all decisions taken by the Contracting Parties.

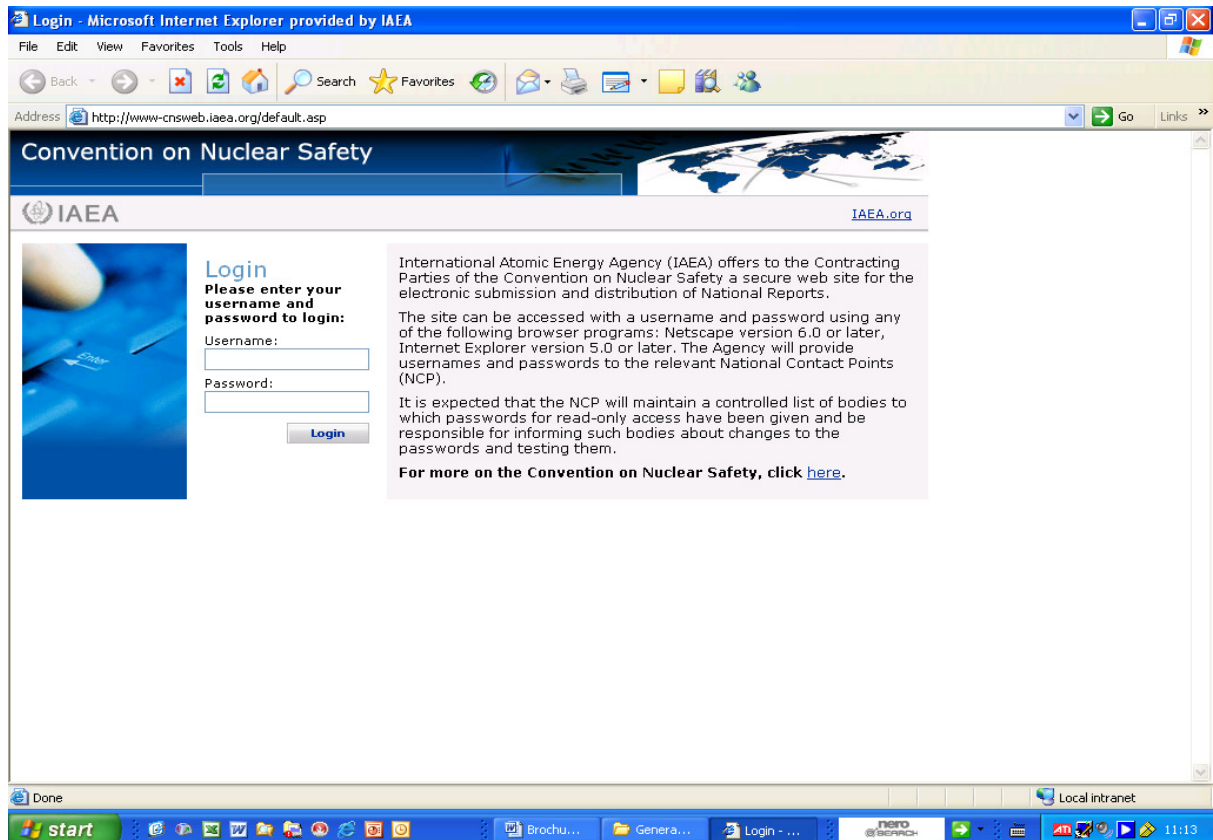
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties can be held in addition to a Review Meeting, if the Contracting Parties deem it necessary and agree either by a majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting or by a written request of a Contracting Party. The Extraordinary Meeting is at the same level as the Review Meeting, and the Rules of Procedure apply *mutatis mutandis* to Extraordinary Meetings. The particularities of how to convene such a meeting are described in rule 45 of the Rules of Procedure. The President and Vice-Presidents of the most recent Review Meeting serve in the same capacity at the Extraordinary Meeting.

CNS SECURE WEB SITE (CNSWEB)

Since 2004, the IAEA has offered to the Contracting Parties of the Convention a secure web site for the electronic submission and distribution of all documents submitted by the Contracting Parties and of the reports developed during the meetings.

This web site, CNSWeb, can be accessed with a user name and password using any of the following browser programmes: Netscape version 6.0 or later, Internet Explorer version 5.0 or later (<http://www-cnsweb.iaea.org/default.asp>).



The web site has proved to function very effectively and is now a major communication tool between the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat in support of the review process.

The web site is used in particular for the submission of:

- National Reports, as required by Article 5 of the Convention and pursuant to Rule 40 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and taking into account Section VIII of the Guidelines regarding the Review Process;
- Questions and comments on the National Reports, as provided by Section VIII of the Guidelines regarding the Review Process;
- Answers to the questions concerning the National Reports, as provided by Section VIII of the Guidelines regarding the Review Process;

- Country Group Coordinator's Reports;
- Rapporteur Reports (i.e. the visual parts);
- Meeting Reports;
- Correspondence by the Secretariat.

The web site also provides a variety of general information for users (e.g. dates and deadlines, Country Group composition, National Contact Points, Officers).

For each Contracting Party, one person is nominated to act as the National Contact Point. The Secretariat provides user names and passwords to the relevant National Contact Points to assure the necessary confidentiality according to Article 27 of the Convention. The password can only be changed, on request, by the Secretariat's system administrator. The National Contact Point has writing rights for uploading his or her own National Report, posting questions to other Contracting Parties on their National Reports, and uploading the answers to questions received by other Contracting Parties.

To become a user of the web site, an application form and a confidentiality agreement must be filled in and signed. It is expected that the National Contact Point will maintain a controlled list of bodies to which passwords for read-only access have been given and be responsible for informing such bodies about changes to the passwords.

Details on the Review Meetings, the related Organizational Meetings and links to national web sites can be found on the IAEA web site at:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/conventions/nuclear-safety.htm>.

ANNEX I

PRESIDENT

Expected Roles and Responsibilities:

The President is expected to:

- A. Preside over plenary meetings;
- B. Generally direct and oversee the review process and the functioning of the Review Meeting;
- C. 'Supervise' other Officers;
- D. Represent the Review Meeting to the media, as appropriate; and
- E. Prepare a proposed Summary Report and a President's Report of the Review Meeting.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the President possess the following qualifications:

- A. Have experience in chairing large international meetings;
- B. Be available for the duration of the Review Meeting;
- C. Be knowledgeable, either first hand or by being well briefed, on the Convention on Nuclear Safety and its processes, and on some of the major current issues in the field of nuclear safety;
- D. Have good English language skills; and
- E. Be skilled at facilitating consensus.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Vice-President(s) may be expected to:

- A. Replace the President if and when necessary;
- B. Assist the President as appropriate; and
- C. Chair meetings of the groups and committees, as may be requested by the President.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the Vice-President possess the following qualifications:

- A. Have experience in chairing large international meetings;
- B. Be available for the duration of the Review Meeting;
- C. Be knowledgeable, either first hand or by being well briefed, on the Convention on Nuclear Safety and its processes, and on some of the major current issues in the field of nuclear safety;
- D. Have good English language skills; and
- E. Be skilled at facilitating consensus.

COUNTRY GROUP CHAIRPERSON

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Country Group Chairperson will be expected to:

- A. Chair and generally manage the meetings of a Country Group;
- B. Participate in meetings of the Plenary;
- C. Implement, in his/her Country Group meetings, the decisions of the Plenary;
- D. Report on progress in the Country Group and on any organizational issues;
- E. Study the National Reports of the Country Group, in advance of their presentation;
- F. Be familiar with the main issues arising from the questions for each of these National Reports;
- G. Stimulate discussion of these issues in the Country Group meeting; and
- H. Support the Rapporteur in the preparation of the Rapporteur's Report.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the Country Group Chairperson possess the following qualifications:

- A. Have a demonstrated aptitude for encouraging the discussion of issues;
- B. Have good English language skills;
- C. Be a good communicator;
- D. Have the ability to take guidance and direction from the President; and
- E. Be available for the duration of the Review Meeting.

COUNTRY GROUP VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Country Group Vice-Chairperson will be expected to:

- A. Replace the Country Group Chairperson in any of the duties of the Chairperson, as needed; and
- B. Support the Rapporteur in the preparation of the Rapporteur's Report.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the Country Group Vice-Chairperson possess the following qualifications:

- A. Have a demonstrated aptitude for encouraging the discussion of issues;
- B. Have good English language skills;
- C. Be a good communicator;
- D. Have no vested interest, either personal or national, in countries in the Country Group;
- E. Have the ability to take guidance and direction from the President; and
- F. Be available for the duration of the Review Meeting.

RAPPORTEURS

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Rapporteur will be expected to:

- A. Be familiar with the National Reports to be presented in the Country Group and the Coordinator's analysis;
- B. Generally note the discussion of each of these National Reports in the Country Group Sessions;
- C. Highlight topics and issues that are agreed by the Country Group to be good practice;

- D. Highlight topics and issues that are agreed by the Country Group to be areas where follow-up at a subsequent Review Meeting would be desirable;
- E. Produce a report in consultation with the Country Group Chairperson after each national presentation, summarizing the above items;
- F. Revise that report after discussions in the Country Group;
- G. Produce and present to the Plenary a report that summarizes the discussions that took place in the Country Group during the Review Meeting and their conclusions; and
- H. Produce the above reports in accordance with the format, timing, and other details as directed by the President and/or the General Committee.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the Rapporteur possess the following qualifications:

- A. Have good English language skills;
- B. Be available for the duration of the Review Meeting;
- C. Have no vested interest, either personal or national, in countries in the Country Group;
- D. Have knowledge of internationally endorsed safety standards, regulatory practice and nuclear safety issues (in order to be able to recognize important parts of the discussion);
- E. Be able to summarize in writing succinctly and rapidly;
- F. Be tactful and be willing to work extended hours during the Review Meeting.

COORDINATOR

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Coordinator will be expected to:

- A. Sort all written questions and comments relating to National Reports of the Country Group into groups according to the Convention on Nuclear Safety's articles;
- B. Develop the major themes and issues arising from these questions and comments;
- C. Do the above with objectivity and in accordance with the prescribed timetables and in agreed formats to ensure consistency and to follow-up with national contacts when they seem likely to miss deadlines; and
- D. Provide the Country Group Officers with the above analysis so that they are well informed about the issues before the start of the Country Group's discussions.

Qualifications:

It is desirable that the Coordinators possess the following qualifications:

- A. Be available for extensive work periods for some months prior to the Review Meeting;
- B. Have knowledge of nuclear safety issues;
- C. Be familiar with electronic database manipulation; and
- D. Have good English language skills.

ANNEX II

CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

Preamble

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

- i) Aware of the importance to the international community of ensuring that the use of nuclear energy is safe, well regulated and environmentally sound;
- ii) Reaffirming the necessity of continuing to promote a high level of nuclear safety worldwide;
- iii) Reaffirming that responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the State having jurisdiction over a nuclear installation;
- iv) Desiring to promote an effective nuclear safety culture;
- v) Aware that accidents at nuclear installations have the potential for transboundary impacts;
- vi) Keeping in mind the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1979), the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (1986), and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (1986);
- vii) Affirming the importance of international co-operation for the enhancement of nuclear safety through existing bilateral and multilateral mechanisms and the establishment of this incentive Convention;
- viii) Recognizing that this Convention entails a commitment to the application of fundamental safety principles for nuclear installations rather than of detailed safety standards and that there are internationally formulated safety guidelines which are updated from time to time and so can provide guidance on contemporary means of achieving a high level of safety;
- ix) Affirming the need to begin promptly the development of an international convention on the safety of radioactive waste management as soon as the ongoing process to develop waste management safety fundamentals has resulted in broad international agreement;
- x) Recognizing the usefulness of further technical work in connection with the safety of other parts of the nuclear fuel cycle, and that this work may, in time, facilitate the development of current or future international instruments;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

CHAPTER 1 OBJECTIVES, DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

ARTICLE 1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Convention are:

- i) to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through the enhancement of national measures and international co-operation including, where appropriate, safety-related technical co-operation;

- ii) to establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards in order to protect individuals, society and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation from such installations;
- iii) to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and to mitigate such consequences should they occur.

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Convention:

- i) "nuclear installation" means for each Contracting Party any land-based civil nuclear power plant under its jurisdiction including such storage, handling and treatment facilities for radioactive materials as are on the same site and are directly related to the operation of the nuclear power plant. Such a plant ceases to be a nuclear installation when all nuclear fuel elements have been removed permanently from the reactor core and have been stored safely in accordance with approved procedures, and a decommissioning programme has been agreed to by the regulatory body.
- ii) "regulatory body" means for each Contracting Party any body or bodies given the legal authority by that Contracting Party to grant licences and to regulate the siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation or decommissioning of nuclear installations.
- iii) "licence" means any authorization granted by the regulatory body to the applicant to have the responsibility for the siting, design, construction, commissioning, operation or decommissioning of a nuclear installation.

ARTICLE 3 SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Convention shall apply to the safety of nuclear installations.

CHAPTER 2 OBLIGATIONS

a) General Provisions

ARTICLE 4 IMPLEMENTING MEASURES

Each Contracting Party shall take, within the framework of its national law, the legislative, regulatory and administrative measures and other steps necessary for implementing its obligations under this Convention.

ARTICLE 5 REPORTING

Each Contracting Party shall submit for review, prior to each meeting referred to in Article 20, a report on the measures it has taken to implement each of the obligations of this Convention.

ARTICLE 6 EXISTING NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that the safety of nuclear installations existing at the time the Convention enters into force for that Contracting Party is

reviewed as soon as possible. When necessary in the context of this Convention, the Contracting Party shall ensure that all reasonably practicable improvements are made as a matter of urgency to upgrade the safety of the nuclear installation. If such upgrading cannot be achieved, plans should be implemented to shut down the nuclear installation as soon as practically possible. The timing of the shut-down may take into account the whole energy context and possible alternatives as well as the social, environmental and economic impact.

b) Legislation and Regulation

ARTICLE 7 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

1. Each Contracting Party shall establish and maintain a legislative and regulatory framework to govern the safety of nuclear installations.
2. The legislative and regulatory framework shall provide for:
 - i) the establishment of applicable national safety requirements and regulations;
 - ii) a system of licensing with regard to nuclear installations and the prohibition of the operation of a nuclear installation without a licence;
 - iii) a system of regulatory inspection and assessment of nuclear installations to ascertain compliance with applicable regulations and the terms of licences;
 - iv) the enforcement of applicable regulations and of the terms of licences, including suspension, modification or revocation.

ARTICLE 8 REGULATORY BODY

1. Each Contracting Party shall establish or designate a regulatory body entrusted with the implementation of the legislative and regulatory framework referred to in Article 7, and provided with adequate authority, competence and financial and human resources to fulfil its assigned responsibilities.
2. Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure an effective separation between the functions of the regulatory body and those of any other body or organization concerned with the promotion or utilization of nuclear energy.

ARTICLE 9 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENCE HOLDER

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that prime responsibility for the safety of a nuclear installation rests with the holder of the relevant licence and shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that each such licence holder meets its responsibility.

c) General Safety Considerations

ARTICLE 10 PRIORITY TO SAFETY

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that all organizations engaged in activities directly related to nuclear installations shall establish policies that give due priority to nuclear safety.

ARTICLE 11 FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to support the safety of each nuclear installation throughout its life.
2. Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that sufficient numbers of qualified staff with appropriate education, training and retraining are available for all safety-related activities in or for each nuclear installation, throughout its life.

ARTICLE 12 HUMAN FACTORS

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that the capabilities and limitations of human performance are taken into account throughout the life of a nuclear installation.

ARTICLE 13 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that quality assurance programmes are established and implemented with a view to providing confidence that specified requirements for all activities important to nuclear safety are satisfied throughout the life of a nuclear installation.

ARTICLE 14 ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION OF SAFETY

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that:

- i) comprehensive and systematic safety assessments are carried out before the construction and commissioning of a nuclear installation and throughout its life. Such assessments shall be well documented, subsequently updated in the light of operating experience and significant new safety information, and reviewed under the authority of the regulatory body;
- ii) verification by analysis, surveillance, testing and inspection is carried out to ensure that the physical state and the operation of a nuclear installation continue to be in accordance with its design, applicable national safety requirements, and operational limits and conditions.

ARTICLE 15 RADIATION PROTECTION

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that in all operational states the radiation exposure to the workers and the public caused by a nuclear installation shall be kept as low as reasonably achievable and that no individual shall be exposed to radiation doses which exceed prescribed national dose limits.

ARTICLE 16 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

1. Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that there are on-site and off-site emergency plans that are routinely tested for nuclear installations and cover the activities to be carried out in the event of an emergency.

For any new nuclear installation, such plans shall be prepared and tested before it commences operation above a low power level agreed by the regulatory body.

2. Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that, insofar as they are likely to be affected by a radiological emergency, its own population and the competent authorities of the States in the vicinity of the nuclear installation are provided with appropriate information for emergency planning and response.

3. Contracting Parties which do not have a nuclear installation on their territory, insofar as they are likely to be affected in the event of a radiological emergency at a nuclear installation in the vicinity, shall take the appropriate steps for the preparation and testing of emergency plans for their territory that cover the activities to be carried out in the event of such an emergency.

d) Safety of Installations

ARTICLE 17 SITING

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that appropriate procedures are established and implemented:

- i) for evaluating all relevant site-related factors likely to affect the safety of a nuclear installation for its projected lifetime;
- ii) for evaluating the likely safety impact of a proposed nuclear installation on individuals, society and the environment;
- iii) for re-evaluating as necessary all relevant factors referred to in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) so as to ensure the continued safety acceptability of the nuclear installation;
- iv) for consulting Contracting Parties in the vicinity of a proposed nuclear installation, insofar as they are likely to be affected by that installation and, upon request providing the necessary information to such Contracting Parties, in order to enable them to evaluate and make their own assessment of the likely safety impact on their own territory of the nuclear installation.

ARTICLE 18 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that:

- i) the design and construction of a nuclear installation provides for several reliable levels and methods of protection (defense in depth) against the release of radioactive materials, with a view to preventing the occurrence of accidents and to mitigating their radiological consequences should they occur;
- ii) the technologies incorporated in the design and construction of a nuclear installation are proven by experience or qualified by testing or analysis;
- iii) the design of a nuclear installation allows for reliable, stable and easily manageable operation, with specific consideration of human factors and the man-machine interface.

ARTICLE 19 OPERATION

Each Contracting Party shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that:

- i) the initial authorization to operate a nuclear installation is based upon an appropriate safety analysis and a commissioning programme demonstrating that the installation, as constructed, is consistent with design and safety requirements;

- ii) operational limits and conditions derived from the safety analysis, tests and operational experience are defined and revised as necessary for identifying safe boundaries for operation;
- iii) operation, maintenance, inspection and testing of a nuclear installation are conducted in accordance with approved procedures;
- iv) procedures are established for responding to anticipated operational occurrences and to accidents;
- v) necessary engineering and technical support in all safety-related fields is available throughout the lifetime of a nuclear installation;
- vi) incidents significant to safety are reported in a timely manner by the holder of the relevant licence to the regulatory body;
- vii) programmes to collect and analyse operating experience are established, the results obtained and the conclusions drawn are acted upon and that existing mechanisms are used to share important experience with international bodies and with other operating organizations and regulatory bodies;
- viii) the generation of radioactive waste resulting from the operation of a nuclear installation is kept to the minimum practicable for the process concerned, both in activity and in volume, and any necessary treatment and storage of spent fuel and waste directly related to the operation and on the same site as that of the nuclear installation take into consideration conditioning and disposal.

CHAPTER 3. MEETINGS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

ARTICLE 20 REVIEW MEETINGS

1. The Contracting Parties shall hold meetings (hereinafter referred to as "review meetings") for the purpose of reviewing the reports submitted pursuant to Article 5 in accordance with the procedures adopted under Article 22.
2. Subject to the provisions of Article 24, sub-groups comprised of representatives of Contracting Parties may be established and may function during the review meetings as deemed necessary for the purpose of reviewing specific subjects contained in the reports.
3. Each Contracting Party shall have a reasonable opportunity to discuss the reports submitted by other Contracting Parties and to seek clarification of such reports.

ARTICLE 21 TIMETABLE

1. A preparatory meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be held not later than six months after the date of entry into force of this Convention.
2. At this preparatory meeting, the Contracting Parties shall determine the date for the first review meeting. This review meeting shall be held as soon as possible, but not later than thirty months after the date of entry into force of this Convention.
3. At each review meeting, the Contracting Parties shall determine the date for the next such meeting. The interval between review meetings shall not exceed three years.

ARTICLE 22 PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. At the preparatory meeting held pursuant to Article 21 the Contracting Parties shall prepare and adopt by consensus Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules. The Contracting Parties shall establish in particular and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure:

- i) guidelines regarding the form and structure of the reports to be submitted pursuant to Article 5;
- ii) a date for the submission of such reports;
- iii) the process for reviewing such reports.

2. At review meetings, the Contracting Parties may, if necessary, review the arrangements established pursuant to sub-paragraphs (i)-(iii) above, and adopt revisions by consensus unless otherwise provided for in the Rules of Procedure. They may also amend the Rules of Procedure and the Financial Rules, by consensus.

ARTICLE 23 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

An extraordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties shall be held:

- i) if so agreed by a majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting, abstentions being considered as voting; or
- ii) at the written request of a Contracting Party, within six months of this request having been communicated to the Contracting Parties and notification having been received by the secretariat referred to in Article 28, that the request has been supported by a majority of the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 24 ATTENDANCE

1. Each Contracting Party shall attend meetings of the Contracting Parties and be represented at such meetings by one delegate, and by such alternates, experts and advisers as it deems necessary.

2. The Contracting Parties may invite, by consensus, any intergovernmental organization which is competent in respect of matters governed by this Convention to attend, as an observer, any meeting, or specific sessions thereof. Observers shall be required to accept in writing, and in advance, the provisions of Article 27.

ARTICLE 25 SUMMARY REPORTS

The Contracting Parties shall adopt, by consensus, and make available to the public a document addressing issues discussed and conclusions reached during a meeting.

ARTICLE 26 LANGUAGES

1. The languages of meetings of the Contracting Parties shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish unless otherwise provided in the Rules of Procedure.

2. Reports submitted pursuant to Article 5 shall be prepared in the national language of the submitting Contracting Party or in a single designated language to be agreed in the Rules of Procedure. Should the report be submitted in a national language other than the designated

language, a translation of the report into the designated language shall be provided by the Contracting Party.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, if compensated, the secretariat will assume the translation into the designated language of reports submitted in any other language of the meeting.

ARTICLE 27 CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties under their law to protect information from disclosure. For the purposes of this Article, "information" includes, inter alia, (i) personal data; (ii) information protected by intellectual property rights or by industrial or commercial confidentiality; and (iii) information relating to national security or to the physical protection of nuclear materials or nuclear installations.

2. When, in the context of this Convention, a Contracting Party provides information identified by it as protected as described in paragraph 1, such information shall be used only for the purposes for which it has been provided and its confidentiality shall be respected.

3. The content of the debates during the reviewing of the reports by the Contracting Parties at each meeting shall be confidential.

ARTICLE 28 SECRETARIAT

1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency") shall provide the secretariat for the meetings of the Contracting Parties.

2. The secretariat shall:

- i) convene, prepare and service the meetings of the Contracting Parties;
- ii) transmit to the Contracting Parties information received or prepared in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

The costs incurred by the Agency in carrying out the functions referred to in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) above shall be borne by the Agency as part of its regular budget.

3. The Contracting Parties may, by consensus, request the Agency to provide other services in support of meetings of the Contracting Parties. The Agency may provide such services if they can be undertaken within its programme and regular budget. Should this not be possible, the Agency may provide such services if voluntary funding is provided from another source.

CHAPTER 4. FINAL CLAUSES AND OTHER PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 29 RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS

In the event of a disagreement between two or more Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, the Contracting Parties shall consult within the framework of a meeting of the Contracting Parties with a view to resolving the disagreement.

ARTICLE 30 SIGNATURE, RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, ACCESSION

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States at the Headquarters of the Agency in Vienna from 20 September 1994 until its entry into force.
2. This Convention is subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by the signatory States.
3. After its entry into force, this Convention shall be open for accession by all States.
4.
 - i) This Convention shall be open for signature or accession by regional organizations of an integration or other nature, provided that any such organization is constituted by sovereign States and has competence in respect of the negotiation, conclusion and application of international agreements in matters covered by this Convention.
 - ii) In matters within their competence, such organizations shall, on their own behalf, exercise the rights and fulfil the responsibilities which this Convention attributes to States Parties.
 - iii) When becoming party to this Convention, such an organization shall communicate to the Depositary referred to in Article 34, a declaration indicating which States are members thereof, which articles of this Convention apply to it, and the extent of its competence in the field covered by those articles.
 - iv) Such an organization shall not hold any vote additional to those of its Member States.
5. Instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.

ARTICLE 31 ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the twenty-second instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval, including the instruments of seventeen States, each having at least one nuclear installation which has achieved criticality in a reactor core.
2. For each State or regional organization of an integration or other nature which ratifies, accepts, approves or accedes to this Convention after the date of deposit of the last instrument required to satisfy the conditions set forth in paragraph 1, this Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit with the Depositary of the appropriate instrument by such a State or organization.

ARTICLE 32 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

1. Any Contracting party may propose an amendment to this Convention. Proposed amendments shall be considered at a review meeting or an extraordinary meeting.
2. The text of any proposed amendment and the reasons for it shall be provided to the Depositary who shall communicate the proposal to the Contracting Parties promptly and at least ninety days before the meeting for which it is submitted for consideration. Any comments received on such a proposal shall be circulated by the Depositary to the Contracting Parties.
3. The Contracting Parties shall decide after consideration of the proposed amendment whether to adopt it by consensus, or, in the absence of consensus, to submit it to a Diplomatic Conference. A decision to submit a proposed amendment to a Diplomatic Conference shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the Contracting Parties present and

voting at the meeting, provided that at least one half of the Contracting Parties are present at the time of voting. Abstentions shall be considered as voting.

4. The Diplomatic Conference to consider and adopt amendments to this Convention shall be convened by the Depositary and held no later than one year after the appropriate decision taken in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article. The Diplomatic Conference shall make every effort to ensure amendments are adopted by consensus. Should this not be possible, amendments shall be adopted with a two-thirds majority of all Contracting Parties.

5. Amendments to this Convention adopted pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 above shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, approval, or confirmation by the Contracting Parties and shall enter into force for those Contracting Parties which have ratified, accepted, approved or confirmed them on the ninetieth day after the receipt by the Depositary of the relevant instruments by at least three-fourths of the Contracting Parties. For a Contracting Party which subsequently ratifies, accepts, approves or confirms the said amendments, the amendments will enter into force on the ninetieth day after that Contracting Party has deposited its relevant instrument.

ARTICLE 33 DENUNCIATION

1. Any Contracting Party may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Depositary.

2. Denunciation shall take effect one year following the date of the receipt of the notification by the Depositary, or on such later date as may be specified in the notification.

ARTICLE 34 DEPOSITARY

1. The Director General of the Agency shall be the Depositary of this Convention.

2. The Depositary shall inform the Contracting Parties of:

i) the signature of this Convention and of the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, in accordance with Article 30;

ii) the date on which the Convention enters into force, in accordance with Article 31;

iii) the notifications of denunciation of the Convention and the date thereof, made in accordance with Article 33;

iv) the proposed amendments to this Convention submitted by Contracting Parties, the amendments adopted by the relevant Diplomatic Conference or by the meeting of the Contracting Parties, and the date of entry into force of the said amendments, in accordance with Article 32.

ARTICLE 35 AUTHENTIC TEXTS

The original of this Convention of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Depositary, who shall send certified copies thereof to the Contracting Parties.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention.

Done at Vienna on the 20th day of September 1994.

For more information, please visit the Convention on Nuclear Safety public web site at:

<http://www-ns.iaea.org/conventions/nuclear-safety.htm>

