

A Process for the Sharing of Information as to States' Implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its associated Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources

1. The objective of the process is to promote a wide exchange of information on national implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (the 'Code') and the associated Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources (the 'Guidance'). The information exchange would not replace the possible review of the Guidance foreshadowed in paragraph 20, or the informal information exchange and consultation processes recommended in paragraph 21, of that document. Noting the non-binding nature of the Code and the Guidance, such an exchange of information would:

- a) Assist States in their national implementation of the Code and Guidance, by enabling them to learn from the experiences of others and to evaluate their own progress on implementation of the Code and Guidance;
- b) Increase the knowledge of States concerning the capability of other States to manage Category 1 and 2 sources in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Code in order to facilitate the application of the import and export provisions of the Code and of the Guidance;
- c) Increase the awareness of the Secretariat about the implementation of the Code and Guidance to assist them in the planning of their regular and technical co-operation programs; and
- d) Invite and encourage more States to implement (and politically commit to) the Code and the Guidance.

2. The information exchange process should be voluntary in nature. It should encourage the broadest possible participation by all member and non-member States, whether or not they have made a political commitment to the Code and/or the Guidance. Intergovernmental organizations may also be invited to attend as observers.

3. There should be two elements to such an information exchange:

- a) A dedicated international meeting, to be organised by the IAEA Secretariat and held every three years (ideally, in the year not currently used for the review processes under the CNS and the Joint Convention). The first such meeting could therefore be held in 2007. Such a meeting would provide a forum for a wide exchange of information on national implementation of the Code and Guidance. Each meeting should have a duration of five days. States participating in the meeting should be urged to submit national papers and presentations, but such submission should not be mandatory.
- b) Regional meetings to share information on experiences on implementing the Code and the Guidance should be held as appropriate. Such meetings would be held on an as-needed basis and preferably prior to the international meeting, and reports from such meetings would be presented to the opening plenary of that international meeting. In order to reduce costs, regional meetings may be held in conjunction with other relevant regional meetings. Their organisation would be left to the participants in each meeting. The IAEA Secretariat may wish to attend these regional meetings, if invited. The Chairs of these regional meetings may also wish to provide meeting summaries to the Secretariat for transmission to other States prior to the international meeting.

4. States wishing to submit voluntary national papers in English sharing experience on implementation of the Code and the Guidance are encouraged to provide these to the IAEA Secretariat four weeks in advance of the meeting to facilitate timely transmission to other States participating in the Meeting. The Secretariat would then make the papers available to other participants in advance of the meeting via a password-protected web site. Countries may choose to discuss any relevant issues in their papers. The papers might cover, but are not limited to:

- a) The infrastructure for regulatory control.
- b) The facilities and services available to the persons authorized to manage radioactive sources (paragraph 9 CoC).
- c) Training of staff in the regulatory body, law enforcement agencies and emergency service organizations (paragraph 10 CoC).
- d) Experience in establishing a national register of radioactive sources (paragraph 11 CoC).
- e) National strategies for gaining or regaining control over orphan sources, including arrangements for reporting loss of control and to encourage awareness of, and monitoring to detect, orphan sources (paragraphs 8(b), 12 and 13 CoC).
- f) Approaches to managing sources at the end of their life cycles (paragraphs 14 and 15 CoC).
- g) Experience with arrangements for implementing the import and export provisions of the Code (paragraphs 23 to 29) and the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.
- h) Any other issues relevant to the implementation of the Code and the Guidance.

5. The papers may briefly describe the current circumstances in the country with regard to the aforementioned topics. They may also comment on achievements and success stories, on difficulties encountered and lessons learned and/or on areas where improvements were still needed, and set out the future strategies for addressing these matters. Papers should be brief – they do not need to be more than ten pages in length. They should contain a one-page executive summary.

6. The international meeting should commence with an opening plenary to discuss organisational issues, hear and discuss reports from the preceding regional meetings (see paragraph 3(b) above) and discuss any issues relevant to the implementation of the Code and/or the Guidance of particular importance that a State may wish to raise. That plenary should not last for more than one day. The opening plenary should decide upon the allocation of time between the Country Groups and the closing plenary, drawing upon the suggestions in the following paragraphs as appropriate.

7. The opening plenary would be followed by meetings of Country Groups. Allocation of States to Country Groups would be done initially alphabetically, with discretion for the Secretariat to adjust that allocation to ensure that there is an approximately even spread of experience across the Groups. At the first meeting, there should be a total of three groups. Each meeting should decide upon how many Country Groups there should be at the next meeting. States choosing to make a presentation would do so in their allocated Country

Group, but all participants are otherwise free to attend and take part in the discussions in other Country Groups. The chairman of the meeting and members of the Secretariat should be free to take part in any Country Group discussions. National presentations may be made by oral presentation and/or by poster presentations.

8. The Country Groups would each have their own chair, to be appointed by the opening plenary. In those Country Groups, States could make a voluntary national presentation, of up to approximately 15 minutes in duration, on their national experiences. There would be no obligation on States to make an oral or poster presentation, even if they have submitted a national paper. After the conclusion of those presentations (which in total should take no more than 50% of the time allocated to the Country Group sessions), there should be open discussions on a range of topics, such as those identified in paragraph 4. The Country Group discussions should conclude by the fourth day of the meeting.

9. After the conclusion of the Country Group sessions, all participating States would again meet together in plenary. That plenary would hear reports from the Chairs of the Country Groups on the discussions within those Groups, and may further discuss particular topics of interest identified by those reports. Any other issues relevant to the implementation of the Code and/or the Guidance of particular importance that a State may wish to raise may also be discussed in that plenary meeting. The plenary may also make recommendations as to actions which might be taken by the IAEA Secretariat to assist States in their implementation of the Code and/or Guidance, and should discuss the content of the Chairman's report (see paragraph 10 below).

10. The Chairman should prepare a report of the meeting, of approximately 5-6 pages. That report would not identify any participating State by name, but would be grouped under broad themes. The report might also identify areas where the process might be improved for future meetings. In that way, the broad outcomes of the discussions at the meeting would be reported to the governing bodies of the IAEA and to the public. After each international meeting, each State should indicate whether its national paper should be made publicly available by the Secretariat. Diagram 1 gives a pictorial overview of the process.

Diagram 1. Pictorial overview of process

