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IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

International Conference on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources: *Accomplishments and Future Endeavours*

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

20–24 June 2022

Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Background

Radioactive sources are extensively used for beneficial purposes around the world in medical, industrial, agricultural, research and educational applications. Ensuring their safety and security remains a matter of global attention and significant improvements and advancements have been made in this respect over the past decades. Despite these efforts, incidents and emergencies that could have significant consequences still occur, reminding States of the need to continue towards enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources throughout their lifecycle; and the goal of globally achieving the highest possible level of safety and security of radioactive sources requires a coordinated approach.

The need for a coordinated international approach to the safety and security of radioactive sources was first discussed at a conference held in Dijon, France, in September 1998, and was the catalyst for a number of subsequent conferences. In December 2000, a conference was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina focusing on the responsibilities of senior regulators dealing with a coordinated international approach to the safety and security of radioactive sources. In March 2003 an international conference was convened in Vienna, Austria, to facilitate the discussion of specific issues related to the security of radioactive sources in the light of growing concerns following the events of 11 September 2001. Then in September 2003, a conference in Rabat, Morocco, dealt with promoting the establishment of sustainable national infrastructures for radiation safety, including control over radioactive sources. Almost two years later in June–July 2005, a conference took place in Bordeaux, France, focusing on the first provisions of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources (hereafter referred to as "the Code"), and called for the establishment of a formalized process of information exchange between States in order to further facilitate implementation of the Code. Most recently, a conference was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in October 2013, highlighting the need to ensure the Global Control of Sources Throughout Their Life Cycle, and to identify means to maintain the highest level of safety and security.

The Code, which was approved in September 2003 by the IAEA Board of Governors and the IAEA General Conference, serves as guidance to States for, *inter alia,* the development and harmonization of policies, laws and regulations on the safety and security of radioactive sources. To date, 140 States have written to the IAEA Director General to express their intention to work towards following the guidance of the Code. Since 2003, the Code's supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources have also been approved and many activities have taken place at the national, regional and international levels to promote the use of the Code and its supplementary Guidance.

An action plan in support of "the IAEA to continue developing and updating existing guidance, including through the Nuclear Security Series, for the management of radioactive sources, complementing the guidance in the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, and assisting States in implementing such guidance" was developed at the final Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., from March 31 to April 1, 2016 attended by senior representatives of some IAEA Member States. In addition, in the Ministerial Declaration from the 2020 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS 2020), held in Vienna, Austria, from 10 to 14 February 2020, Member States committed to "maintaining effective security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle, consistent with the objectives of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance documents."

In support of such efforts, the IAEA continues to publish standards, recommendations and guidance for the safety and security of radioactive sources in the relevant IAEA Safety Standards Series and Nuclear Security Series and supports Member States in their use of these publications in a number of ways, and in coordination with other bilateral or multilateral initiatives.

B. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the conference is to foster the exchange of experiences and anticipated future developments related to establishing and maintaining a high level of safety and security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle.

The conference will provide a forum to:

- Exchange information on meeting current challenges relating to the safety and security of radioactive sources, including lessons learned during the COVID 19 pandemic;
- Increase awareness about and exchange experience regarding preparedness for and response to radiological incidents and emergencies involving radioactive sources;
- Foster coordination among national competent authorities for the safety and security of radioactive sources;
- Share experiences in the development of governmental (e.g., policy and strategy), legislative and regulatory frameworks for radioactive sources and associated facilities;
- Exchange information regarding the planning, establishment, maintenance and sustainability of national radiation safety and nuclear security regimes for radioactive sources, including safety and security systems for facilities and activities (other than transport), as well as knowledge management, education and training;
- Review the impact of research and technological advancements relating to future applications of nuclear sciences and technologies on safety and security of radioactive sources;
- Share experiences in technological advances and future planning for establishment, maintenance and sustainability of safety and security measures;
- Facilitate cooperation among all competent authorities and other stakeholders at the national and international levels, as applicable;
- Promote IAEA safety standards and nuclear security guidance, and their use by States;
- Promote the universalization and use of relevant legally binding (e.g., Joint Convention of the Safety Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management – "Joint Convention", Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency – "Assistance Convention", and International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism – ICSANT) and non-legally binding (e.g., Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance) international instruments.

The conference will not address the safety and security of nuclear material[1] in use, transport and storage, nor the response to related nuclear security events. Further, the conference will not discuss any sensitive nuclear security information and issues of a political nature. The safe and secure transport of radioactive sources will be addressed separately during the IAEA "International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials" (CN-280), to be held in Vienna on 12-17 December 2021, which will inform the conference.

[1] Any material that is either special fissionable material or source material as defined in Article XX of the IAEA Statute

C. Themes and Topics

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the overall themes for the conference will be:

- Enhancing safety and security of radioactive sources from cradle to grave;
- Facilitating collaboration among national stakeholders and leveraging existing capabilities for keeping radioactive sources under regulatory control;
- Managing radiological incidents and emergencies involving radioactive sources, including situations with perceived radiological hazard;
- Promoting international cooperation to strengthen safety and security of radioactive sources globally;
- Strengthening sustainability and effectiveness of national regimes for the safety and security of radioactive sources, including sustainability and resilience in unplanned situations (e.g., pandemics and natural disasters).

While the number and scope of the topical sessions will be based on the nature and number of synopses received, it is anticipated that the topical sessions may deal with the subjects listed in the Annex.

D. Structure

The conference programme will consist of an opening session, plenary sessions, technical sessions, poster and interactive content sessions, exhibitions, and a closing session. The opening session will include opening statements delivered by the Conference Presidents and the IAEA.

The plenary sessions will continue with a combination of invited keynote presentations and submitted papers addressing the main themes and topics of the conference.

Each topical session will include presentations and/or panel discussions delivered by participants which will be selected based on the synopses submitted. The conference will also include poster and interactive content sessions, and sufficient time will be provided for discussion and interaction with colleagues.

The final plenary session on the last day of the conference will be dedicated to conclusions and recommendations.

The closing session will include a summary of the main conclusions of the conference, delivered by the Conference Presidents, and closing remarks from the IAEA.

E. Expected Outcomes

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the Conference is expected to produce the following, main outcomes:

- Overview of the current status with respect to the safety and security of radioactive sources including emergency preparedness and response arrangements.
- Identification of main priorities and future challenges for the safety and security of radioactive sources.

- Greater understanding of the impact of research and technological advances relating to future applications of radioactive sources and of how they may benefit policy and programmes toward increasing the safety and security of radioactive sources and enhancing emergency preparedness and response arrangements.
- Insights into how cooperation among all competent authorities and other relevant stakeholders, at the national and international levels, may be further improved to facilitate greater synergies among them with regards to enhancing the safety and security of radioactive sources.
- Increased awareness and use of relevant legally and non-legally binding international instruments.

F. Target Audience

The conference is aimed at senior government officials, high-level staff from agencies involved in policy making for, and managing, safety and security of radioactive sources, and technical and legal experts working in all areas of safety and security of radioactive sources. These include representatives of national authorities (e.g., regulatory bodies, research, response organizations, law enforcement and other involved in nuclear safety and nuclear security within their State) and of facilities with radioactive sources in use or storage. The conference is also intended to attract representatives from international and regional organizations and initiatives, industry, civil society and academic institutions.

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

G. Call for Papers

Contributions on the topics listed in Section C are welcome as oral or poster presentations. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work, which has not been published elsewhere.

G.1. Submission of Synopses

Synopses (approximately 500 to 600 words on one or a maximum of two printed A4 pages, may contain any charts, graphs, figures and references) should give enough information on the content of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Anyone wishing to present at the conference must submit a synopsis in electronic format using the conference's file submission system (IAEA-INDICO), which is accessible from the conference web page (see Section Q). The synopsis can be submitted through this system from **5 June 2021** until **15 September 2021**. Specifications for the layout will be available on IAEA-INDICO. The system for electronic submission of synopsis, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed synopsis. Authors are encouraged to submit synopsis as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

In addition, authors must electronically submit the following two forms to their appropriate governmental authority using the InTouch+ platform (see Section H) for transmission to the IAEA. These forms must be received by the IAEA no later than **1 October 2021**:

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

IMPORTANT: The Programme Committee will consider uploaded synopses only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section H).

G.2. Acceptance of Synopses

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude synopses that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics listed in Section C.

Authors will be informed by **15 January 2022** as to whether their submission has been accepted, either orally or as a poster, for presentation at the conference. Accepted synopses will also be reproduced in an unedited electronic compilation of synopses which will be made available to all registered participants of the conference.

Authors selected for oral presentations and invited speakers will be asked to provide an extended synopsis (3 to 5 pages) by **15 March 2022.** Longer manuscripts will only be accepted at the discretion of the Secretariat and only in exceptional cases. Guidelines and a template for the preparation and submission of the extended synopsis will be available on IAEA-INDICO.

G.3 Proceedings

Following the conference, the IAEA will publish a summary report. The proceedings will be made available to read online.

H. Participation and Registration

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

Registration through the InTouch+ platform:

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

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

2. Once signed in, prospective 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 (**EVT2001738**) 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 the InTouch+ platform, 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 prospective participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section O).

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 the application through the InTouch+ platform, prospective participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via email: Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the Data Processing Notice concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

I. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover 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 H). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by **1 October 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. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary and final programme will be made available on the conference web page (see Section Q) prior to the start of the conference. The electronic compilation of synopses will be accessible free of charge to participants registered for the conference.

K. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email CN-295@iaea.org by **30 September 2021**.

L. Working Language

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

M. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on https://www.iaea.org/events. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

N. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as three months but not later than four 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.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information document available on https://www.iaea.org/events.

O. Key Deadlines and Dates

Submission of synopses through IAEA-INDICO	**15 September 2021**
Submission of Form B (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	**1 October 2021**
Submission of Form C (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	**1 October 2021**
Notification of acceptance of synopses for oral or poster presentation	**15 January 2022**
Electronic submission of extended synopses through IAEA-INDICO	**15 March 2022**
Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request) through the InTouch+ platform	**No deadline**

P. Conference Secretariat

General Postal Address and Contact Details of the IAEA:

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Administration and Organization:

Mr Sanjai Padmanabhan
Conference Services Section
Division of Conference and Document Services
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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

Q. Conference Web Page

Please visit the IAEA conference https://www.iaea.org/events/Safety-Security-Radioactive-Sources regularly for new information regarding this conference.

Annex: List of Possible Subjects for Topical Sessions

- Legally binding and non-legally binding international instruments (e.g., Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources) and national legal frameworks;
- Coordination among stakeholders involved in the safety and security of radioactive sources;
- Interface between relevant stakeholders in relation to imports and exports of radioactive sources;
- Regulatory infrastructure for the safety and security, including Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), of radioactive sources;
- Harmonized regulatory approaches (e.g., authorization, inspection and enforcement processes) for the safety and security of radioactive sources;
- Functions, competencies and effectiveness of regulatory bodies;
- Regulatory requirements for safety and security of radioactive sources and associated facilities, including EPR;
- Graded approach to national regulatory requirements for safety and security of radioactive sources;
- Assessment of current and emerging threats, hazards and risks related to radioactive sources;
- Safety and security assessments of facilities and activities;
- Self-assessment tools for the safety and security, including EPR, of radioactive sources;
- Sustainability and effectiveness of safety and security systems and measures, including emerging technologies;
- Challenges and good practices associated with ensuring the safety and security of radioactive sources throughout their life cycle;
- Safe and secure management of disused sealed radioactive sources, including field operations, new technologies and end-of-life-cycle management options;
- Successes and challenges in transitioning from source-based to non-source-based radiation technologies;
- Lessons learned from managing radioactive sources safely and securely during the COVID-19 global pandemic;
- Radioactive sources security and safety by design;
- Physical protection systems and measures at facilities;
- Information security, including computer security, in relation to radioactive sources;
- Responding to radiological incidents and emergencies involving missing, lost or stolen radioactive sources;
- Radioactive sources out of regulatory control and illicit trafficking prevention;

- Good practices for notification, reporting, exchange of information and requests for assistance in case of radiological incidents and emergencies (e.g, using IAEA's Unified System for Information Exchange "USIE");
- Emergency response exercises and their evaluation;
- Raising awareness of industry, civil society, international organizations and other stakeholders about the safety and security of radioactive sources, including sustainability and resilience in unplanned situations (e.g., pandemics and natural disasters);
- Human resources development, knowledge management and networks, education and training;
- Safety culture and nuclear security culture for radioactive sources;
- International cooperation and assistance to enhance the safety and security of radioactive sources;
- IAEA peer review and advisory missions, e.g., Advisory Mission on Regulatory Infrastructure for Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Material (RISS), Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS), International Nuclear Security Advisory Services (INSServ), International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS), and Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV).