



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

*Atoms for Peace and Development*

# **Technical Meeting on Global Progress in Developing Geological Disposal Solutions Within the Underground Research Facilities Network: Global Status Update**

**Virtual Event**

**18 – 20 April 2023**

**Ref. No.: EVT2205000**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

The Underground Research Facilities Network for Geological Disposal (URF Network) establishes a community of practice and learning for geological disposal. The URF Network's goal is to encourage the development of safe, sustainable and effective geological disposal programmes around the world through demonstrations of technology, improved training and enhanced communications between participating organizations.

To achieve this goal, the URF Network provides its members with a platform to assess and share best practices in developing, evaluating and implementing geological disposal solutions for intermediate level waste, high level waste and spent nuclear fuel. Emphasis is placed on the role and use of URFs to support the development and implementation of successful disposal programmes.

In order to achieve its goal and objectives, the URF Network relies on the active involvement of all Network members and, significantly, on resource contributions from all those members that own or manage URFs and other research facilities and that have agreed to host training and demonstration activities.

The 2023 Technical Meeting of the URF Network will focus on the global progress in geological disposal programmes including updates in relation to URF facilities. This update will take place on a fully virtual

platform. At this meeting, Member States are asked to provide status updates on their URF and geological disposal programmes.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the event is to review information from the IAEA's Underground Research Facilities Network for Geological Disposal on recent developments relevant to geological disposal around the world.

## **Target Audience**

Members of the URF Network are invited to attend the meeting.

In general, the meeting is targeted to representatives of organizations with specific responsibilities related to establishing, developing, providing the scientific and technical basis for, and implementing deep geological disposal projects for radioactive waste.

## **Working Language(s)**

The working language of the event will be English with no interpretation provided. All communications and papers must be submitted in this language.

## **Expected Outputs**

Annualized Member State updates on progress in their disposal programmes for geological repository programmes.

Annualized Member State updates on progress in their R&D programmes planned or implemented in a URF.

List of action items of further interest to Network members.

## **Structure**

This meeting is fully virtual and will commence on Tuesday, 18 April 2023 and will conclude on Thursday 20 April 2023.

## Topics

The scope of this meeting is on status updates for geological repository programmes and URF experiments worldwide. Member State representatives are requested to prepare a short country update specific to each Member State's geological repository programme and URF(s) (if applicable) in MS PowerPoint. The updates should be uploaded to the URF website at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **1 March 2023**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the Participation Form (Form A) through their organization to the IAEA by above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and technical matters.

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. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate.

## Additional Information

The meeting will take place on WEBEX and will be forwarded as a calendar invite. If you have any barriers to participate with this program, please kindly reach out to us.

## **IAEA Contacts**

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.