

Workshop for Diplomats on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage

A Call for Action on the Global Nuclear Liability Regime:
Key Policy and Legal Considerations

Monday, 16 June 2025, 14:00–16:15

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna International Centre (VIC),
Room CR-1, C Building, 2nd Floor

- *We are considering to introduce nuclear power for the first time. What do we need to know about civil liability for nuclear damage?*
- *Given the small size of small modular reactors (SMRs) and presumably smaller risks, do we need to address nuclear liability?*
- *We don't have an NPP but our neighbour is constructing one. How can we assure ourselves of compensation?*
- *As a coastal State, how are we protected in the event of a nuclear accident during maritime transport of radioactive material through our waters?*

As more countries turn to nuclear energy—including traditional Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)—the legal frameworks addressing civil liability and compensation in the event of a nuclear accident become increasingly vital.

Though a specialized area of nuclear law not always familiar to many policymakers and decision makers, the legal frameworks are of paramount importance to enabling the full potential of nuclear power to meet the rising energy demand for a low-carbon energy source, address energy security concerns and contribute to net zero emissions.

This workshop is designed for diplomatic and non-diplomatic staff of IAEA Member States who want to understand more about the Global Nuclear Liability Regime as called for annually by the General Conference and its relevance for NPP operating countries, newcomer countries and neighboring countries, as well as coastal states. Participants will gain insights into how nuclear liability frameworks support cross-border cooperation, investment confidence, and public protection.

PROGRAMME

14:00-14:10	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>P. L. Johnson, Assistant Director General and Legal Adviser, Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)</p>
14:10-14:30	<p>Legal Framework for Nuclear Energy Development</p> <p>A. Wetherall, Head, Nuclear and Treaty Law Section, OLA</p>
14:30-15:00	<p>Nuclear Liability 101: Why Nuclear Liability and Compensation Matter</p> <p>D. McCauley, Chair of the IAEA International Expert Group on Nuclear Liability (INLEX)</p>
15:00-15:30	<p>Perspectives of NPP Operating Countries, NPP and SMR Newcomer Countries, Neighbouring Countries and Coastal States</p> <p>B. McRae, INLEX Member</p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Pathways Towards the Global Nuclear Liability Regime – Tools and Capacity Building</p> <p>C. Dominguez, INLEX Member</p>
16:00-16:15	<p>Wrap-Up and Reflections</p> <p>A. Wetherall</p>

Representatives of Member States are kindly requested to confirm by **Thursday, 12 June 2025** their participation with the event organizer, **Ms Maria del Pilar Rojo Crespo de von Bismarck**, Office of Legal Affairs, Tel.: (+43 1) 2600 21493; Email: m.d.p.rojo-crespo-de-von-bismarck@iaea.org