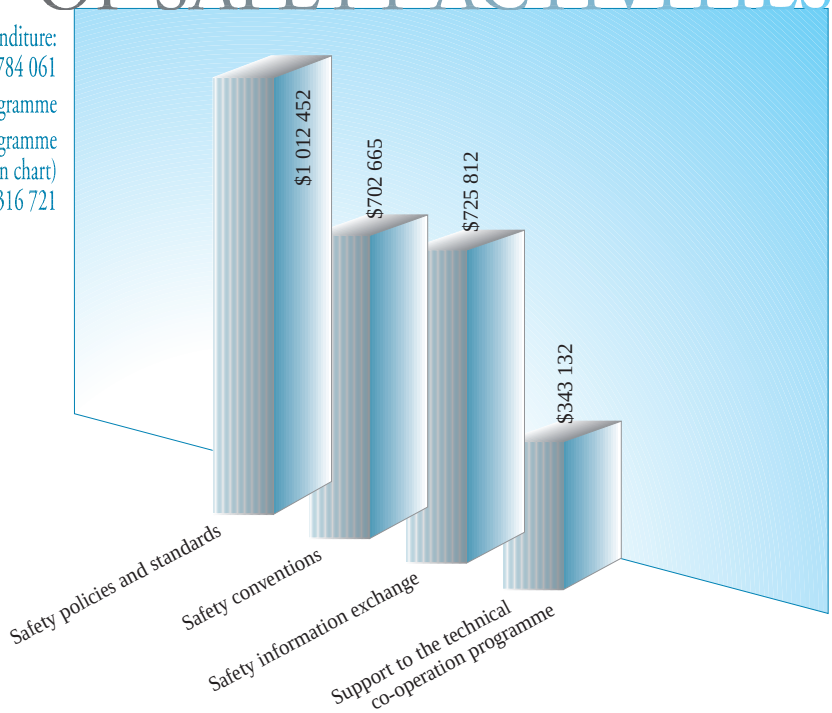
CO-ORDINATION OF SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Regular budget expenditure:
$2 784 061

Expenditure by subprogramme

Extrabudgetary programme expenditure (not included in chart)
$316 721



The safety activities co-ordination programme aims to ensure that there is technical consistency between the Agency's nuclear, radiation and radioactive waste safety activities. This involves work in four main areas: co-ordinating the development and review process for the Agency's safety standards; administering and, where appropriate, implementing the safety related conventions; promoting safety related information exchange; and co-ordinating the technical input to safety related projects in the Agency's technical co-operation programme.

Safety policies and standards

During the fourth term of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group (INSAG) — an independent international expert group established to advise the Director General — three meetings were held to develop a report combining the three existing documents on fundamental objectives and principles for nuclear, radiation and waste safety and to update an earlier INSAG report, *Basic Safety Principles for Nuclear Power Plants* (INSAG-3). Other reports are planned on the management of ageing nuclear power plants and general safety management issues.

At its third meeting, the Advisory Commission on Safety Standards (ACSS) — a standing body of senior government officials advising the Director General on safety standards — reviewed the programmes of the nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety standards advisory committees and agreed on a set of procedures for the development of safety standards. The ACSS also designated the lead committees for work in various topics.

The fifth series of discussions on the decommissioning of nuclear facilities was held as part of the Agency's 'Peer Discussions on Regulatory Practices'. Senior regulators from 22 Member States participated. A report concluded that many countries now require that general decommissioning plans be approved by the regulator prior to construction of the facility. In the

case of existing facilities, such plans should be submitted at least five years before decommissioning is to begin. Finally, detailed plans are required just before the onset of decommissioning.

An International Regulatory Review Team (IRRT) went to Sofia at the request of the Bulgarian Government to review the effectiveness of the Committee for the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes and to exchange information on the role, organization and responsibilities of the regulatory body and other regulatory concerns. As part of the mission, two members of the team visited the Kozloduy nuclear power plant and recommendations were made both on regulation and modernization at Kozloduy and on particular aspects of the Bulgarian regulatory regime.

Safety conventions

As required by Articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, a preparatory meeting of the Contracting Parties was held in Vienna in April. The meeting adopted by consensus the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, and the Guidelines Regarding National Reports and the Review Process under the Convention. The meeting further decided that the first Review Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention would be on 12 April 1999 and the organizational meeting preceding the first Review Meeting would be held from 29 September to 2 October 1998.

Safety information exchange

More pages were added to the Agency's *WorldAtom* Internet site containing a larger selection of scientific, technical and organizational information on nuclear, radiation and waste safety. *NUSAFE* presents the work of the Agency in nuclear installation safety, including safety standards, applied methodology, safety services and special projects. *RasaNet* has specific sections devoted to the radiation and waste safety programmes, including tables of inhalation and ingestion data, a glossary of terms and training modules based on the Practical Radiation Safety Manuals.

Support to the technical co-operation programme

Thematic planning was introduced through a technical co-operation Model Project under which 53 radiation and waste safety 'Action Plans' were established. The first milestone was the establishment of a system of notification, authorization and control of radiation sources, together with an inventory of radiation sources. Some results have already been achieved, notably in the control of radiation sources. By the end of 1998, over 80% of the participating countries should have approved (or be in the process of approving) legislation, regulations and established systems of notification, licensing and control of sources in accordance with the Basic Safety Standards, and over 70% should have a national inventory of sources.

Implementation began of a technical co-operation project for nuclear installation safety — the 'Integrated Strategy for Assisting Member States in Establishing and Strengthening their Nuclear Safety Infrastructure'. Applying only to those States with research reactors or nuclear power plants and receiving Agency assistance, a key element of the strategy is that country nuclear safety profiles describing each State's existing safety infrastructure will be compared with a reference situation based on international safety standards — in this case the Agency's Nuclear Safety Standards (NUSS) documents — to identify improvements. A set of questionnaires based on the safety requirements in the five NUSS Codes was developed for this comparison and will be sent, together with the country nuclear safety profiles, to the Member States concerned.