

General Conference

GC(69)/1/Add.3

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Provisional agenda

Supplementary item for inclusion in the provisional agenda

1. On 7 August 2025, the Secretariat received a request, submitted by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China, for the inclusion of an item entitled "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" in the agenda of the 69th (2025) regular session of the General Conference.
2. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference¹, this item is hereby placed on a supplementary list which will be circulated not later than 26 August 2025. The letter from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China and the accompanying explanatory memorandum relating to the inclusion of this item are attached hereto.
3. It is suggested, for consideration by the General Committee, that this item follow the item circulated in GC(69)/1/Add.2 and be discussed in the Plenary.

¹ Rules 13 and 20, GC(XXXI)/INF/245/Rev.1.



中华人民共和国常驻维也纳联合国和其他国际组织代表团
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

No. CPMV/2025/124

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and, in relation to the agenda item, successively adopted by consensus at meetings of Board of Governors and sessions of the General Conference since November 2021, titled **“Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT”**, has the honor to request that it continues to be placed on the agenda of the 69th General Conference scheduled to be held from 15 September 2025. The relevant explanatory memorandum is hereby enclosed.

It is the hope of the Permanent Mission of China that this Note, together with its relevant supporting document, will be circulated to all Member States.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of IAEA the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 5 August 2025



The Secretariat of
International Atomic Energy Agency
VIC, Vienna 1400

Explanatory Memorandum

In September 2021, the US, the UK and Australia announced the creation of AUKUS, under which the US and the UK will support Australia's acquisition of nuclear powered submarines.

The AUKUS nuclear submarine cooperation marks the first time in history for Nuclear-Weapon States to transfer nuclear powered submarine reactors and weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State as their military ally. Such cooperation poses serious challenge to the NPT regime and IAEA comprehensive safeguards system. It is clearly not a routine and peaceful safeguards project between Non-Nuclear-Weapon State and the IAEA Secretariat. In that context, Australia's request to commence negotiations with the Agency on an arrangement required under Article 14 of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement is unprecedented, and involves a series of controversial issues.

Since November 2021, the intergovernmental discussions about AUKUS have continuously deepened. The IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference has placed "Transfer of the nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" on agenda for eighteen consecutive times. There were also serious discussion among States Parties during the NPT review process. Various aspects and impacts of the AUKUS cooperation were reviewed in the above discussions, including its impact on the historical practice of IAEA in improving and strengthening the safeguards system, as well as the importance of adhering to the tradition of inclusiveness and consensus in this regard. More and more Member States have realized that the AUKUS issue concerns the interests of all.

All of the above fully demonstrates the importance and necessity of a continuing intergovernmental discussion process on AUKUS. Therefore, it is the hope of the Chinese Delegation that IAEA Member States could continue to advance the open, inclusive and transparent intergovernmental discussion at the 69th General Conference, with a view to facilitating all the parties in expressing their views and concerns, upholding the IAEA safeguards system as well as the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.