



International Atomic Energy Agency

## INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC,  
THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY REGARDING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON THE CONSEQUENCES  
OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE "PRIPYAT'" SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

1. The Agreement between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding International Research on the Consequences of the Accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant to be carried out at the "Pripyat'" Scientific Centre was approved by the IAEA's Board of Governors on 12 September 1990. It was signed on 21 September 1990 and entered into force on the same date, pursuant to Article XIII.2 thereof.
2. The text of the Agreement, along with the statement made by the Government of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic upon signature, is reproduced herewith for the information of all Members.

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AGREEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH  
ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACCIDENT AT  
THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO BE CARRIED OUT AT THE  
"PRIPYAT'" SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

WHEREAS the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Soviet Parties") have agreed to place the "Pripyat'" Scientific Centre established at Chernobyl (hereinafter referred to as "the Chernobyl Centre") at the disposal of other countries and international organizations for the purpose of research projects to be conducted on a bilateral or multilateral basis in the area of nuclear safety and radiological protection;

WHEREAS it is a function of the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency") to encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world, and, to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful uses of atomic energy;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Soviet Parties of the one part and the Agency of the other part have agreed as follows:

Article I

The Soviet Parties and the Agency shall, in conformity with the Agency Statute, co-operate in the development and promotion of international research projects endorsed by governments or international organizations in accordance with this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "research projects") and in the dissemination of their results.

## Article II

The Soviet Parties and the Agency undertake that research projects implemented under this Agreement shall be used only for peaceful applications of atomic energy.

## Article III

The Chernobyl Centre shall provide an administrative and managerial framework, including premises, basic equipment, administrative, operational and maintenance services, as well as such other services and facilities as are specified in individual Research Project Agreements (hereinafter "Project Agreements") referred to in Article V.

## Article IV

Within the framework of its programme activities and budgetary appropriations the Agency:

- (i) shall promote research projects and disseminate the results of such research that are of relevance to the Agency;
- (ii) may undertake research activities at the Chernobyl Centre including, inter alia, the organization of meetings and scientific visits.

## Article V

Any research project to be implemented at the Chernobyl Centre under this Agreement shall be governed by a Project Agreement concluded between interested institution(s)/international organization(s) and the Chernobyl Centre. Research projects shall be financed on the basis of a cost sharing

formula. Modalities and sources of financing shall be specified in the Project Agreement. Project Agreements shall cover definition of the research project and other relevant financial and administrative arrangements. Project Agreements shall be concluded in accordance with the following procedure:

- (i) Research project proposals shall be endorsed by the Government(s) of the institution(s) or by the international organization(s);
- (ii) Institutions and international organizations shall enter into consultation with the Chernobyl Centre on the feasibility of such research;
- (iii) Research project proposals shall be submitted to the Agency for comments as appropriate; the Agency's comments shall be transmitted to the prospective parties as appropriate;
- (iv) Upon receipt of endorsement referred to in paragraph (i) above and Agency comments, the Chernobyl Centre and the prospective parties to the project shall conclude a Project Agreement;
- (v) The Chernobyl Centre shall communicate the Project Agreement for information to institutions/international organizations parties to other Project Agreements, to the International Scientific Advisory Committee referred to in Article VI, and to the Agency.

#### Article VI

1. An International Scientific Advisory Committee (hereinafter "the Committee") shall be established; it shall be composed of representatives of the Chernobyl Centre, of the Agency, and of the institutions/ international organizations participating in research projects.
2. The Committee shall inter alia make recommendations relevant to the co-ordination of research projects at the Chernobyl Centre and the general orientation of research.
3. The Committee shall be convened by the Chernobyl Centre at least once a year; it shall meet at the Chernobyl Centre or at Agency Headquarters, as appropriate.

#### Article VII

Without prejudice to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency accepted by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on 1 July 1966, 2 December 1966 and 5 October 1966, respectively, the Soviet Parties shall accord participants and their personnel involved in research projects at the Chernobyl Centre facilities necessary for the performance of their functions, including visas, customs, import and export, and currency exchange facilities in accordance with Soviet law.

#### Article VIII

Scientific information developed as a result of research work subject to this Agreement at the Chernobyl Centre shall be made available to the Agency in accordance with Article VIII of the Agency Statute.

#### Article IX

The Chernobyl Centre shall perform medical surveillance as appropriate, of all personnel of the Party/Parties to the Project and maintain records of the results of such surveillance. Such records shall be kept confidential and shall only be released to the individual and his/her employer. The cost for performing medical surveillance shall be shared by the Chernobyl Centre and the Party/Parties to the Project concerned, as defined in the Project Agreement.

#### Article X

The Agency's safety standards and measures as they may be revised from time to time shall apply in the implementation of each specific Project. Alternatively, the system of safety standards and measures of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics may be applied provided that it is consistent with that of the Agency.

#### Article XI

The Soviet Parties shall ensure where applicable that the equipment, installations and materials used for the implementation of the Project(s), shall be accorded, at all times while they are in the territory of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, physical protection consistent with, and at the levels not lower than those recommended by the Agency in document INFCIRC/225/Rev.2 entitled "The Physical Protection of Nuclear Material" and as it may be revised from time to time.

#### Article XII

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by negotiation or other procedures agreed to by the Soviet Parties and the Agency. Where the Soviet Parties and the Agency agree to submit the dispute to arbitration, the arbitral tribunal shall be composed as follows: one arbitrator shall be designated by the Soviet Parties, one arbitrator shall be designated by the Agency, and the two arbitrators so designated shall elect a third, who shall be the Chairman. A majority of the members of the arbitral tribunal shall constitute a quorum, and all decisions shall require the concurrence of two arbitrators. The arbitral procedure shall be fixed by the arbitral tribunal. The decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be binding on the Soviet Parties and the Agency.

Article XIII

1. A single original of this Agreement shall be signed and deposited with the Director General of the Agency who shall provide a certified copy thereof to the Governments of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.
2. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Agency.
3. The Soviet Parties may terminate this Agreement by jointly notifying the Agency to that effect in writing; the termination shall become effective six months from the date of the receipt of such notification by the Agency. The Agency may terminate this Agreement by notifying the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic to that effect in writing; the termination shall become effective six months from the date on which such notification has been received by the three Governments. However, the termination of this Agreement shall not affect the obligations of the Soviet Parties and the Agency under this Agreement with respect to Project Agreements in force at the date of such notification.
4. This Agreement is without prejudice to any other research activities undertaken within the framework or under the auspices of the Chernobyl Centre.

DONE in Vienna on the 21st day of September 1990 in the Russian and English languages, each text being equally authentic.

For the GOVERNMENT OF:

THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS

(signed) V.F. Konovalov

THE BYELORUSSIAN SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

(signed) A.V. Stepanenko

THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

(signed) Viktor D. Gladush

For the INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY

(signed) Hans Blix



STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UKRAINIAN SOVIET  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC UPON SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT

"The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, by its decree of 1 August 1990 'Concerning Urgent Measures for the Protection of Ukrainian Citizens against the Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe', decided 'to regard all results of scientific research connected with the Chernobyl catastrophe which is carried out within the territory of the Republic as being the exclusive property of the Ukrainian people'. In accordance with this, the Government of the Ukrainian SSR understands that the results of the research projects carried out within the framework of the present Agreement will be made available to it through the Chernobyl Centre which will be a Party to all such projects.

"The Government of the Ukrainian SSR will facilitate the conclusion of project agreements for international research on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident within the territory of the Ukrainian SSR and will ensure that such projects can be implemented conscientiously and purposefully."