



Workshop on Ensuring Safety and Enabling Sustainability in the Management of Radioactive Waste and Environmental Releases, Decommissioning and Remediation

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

15 - 18 December 2025

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Information Sheet

Introduction

The International Conference on “Ensuring Safety and Enabling Sustainability” took place at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, from 6-10 November 2023. The discussions and panel sessions underlined the need for further elaboration of the bases for ensuring safety and enabling sustainability in the management of radioactive waste (including spent fuel), environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation. Discussions suggest that the IAEA should consider incorporating sustainability more explicitly into its safety standards. While sustainability tools are already embedded within the IAEA safety principles and standards, they are not always explicitly stated or consistently applied. It is questionable whether the fundamental safety principles on the concepts of justification and optimization of protection and safety are well understood, having implications for how sustainability considerations are addressed. More and better communication is needed to explain the terms justification and optimization in a straightforward and relevant way. This will pave the way for more effective, efficient and inclusive involvement of all interested parties in the decision-making process in the management of radioactive waste (including spent fuel), environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation. To enable sustainability and reach sustainable development goals at the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, it was noted that other influential factors outside nuclear safety should be taken into account to enhance a systematic approach to a broader safety concept. It was suggested that by engaging with professionals from different sectors in tackling sustainability challenges, interested parties could gain new perspectives and uncover innovative solutions. This broader safety concept has to be integrated into sustainability assessments. The need to explore in more detail how sustainability assessments should be structured has been indicated as well as the urgent need to involve professionals and experts from fields beyond nuclear and radiological safety to ensure a more holistic approach of considering and integrating safety into sustainability context.

Objectives

The way forward after the international conference underlined the need to frame and prioritize the IAEA Support for Member States in integrating sustainability into the lifecycle of nuclear and radiation facilities to ensure safe and sustainable management of radioactive waste (including spent fuel), environmental releases, decommissioning and remediation, improving the understanding and application of the IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles of justification and optimization, in the context of sustainability. In this context, the Workshop on Ensuring Safety and Enabling Sustainability in the Management of Radioactive Waste (including Spent Fuel), Environmental Releases, Decommissioning and Remediation sets forth main objectives:

- Explore sustainability elements already embedded within the IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles, emphasizing the shift from retrofitting approaches to proactive and timely sustainability integration;
- Present and discuss key concepts on ensuring safety and enabling sustainability in justification and optimization processes;
- Enhance the capacity of Member States to make balanced decisions about safety controls and actions by taking account of sustainability and meaningful consideration of dose and risk criteria;
- Build confidence of safety practitioners in performing comprehensive justification and optimization processes by taking account of sustainability considerations;
- Identify whether there is a need for additional IAEA guidance on integrating sustainability in the decision-making process, including the appropriate format and the specific topics to be covered.

Target Audience

The target audience for the meeting comprises policymakers, regulators, technical support organizations and operators in the areas of decommissioning, remediation, radioactive waste management and radiation protection of people and the environment, including non-governmental organisations and academic institutions. Since the outreach to the sustainable development community is essential, Member States are encouraged to extend the designation for this meeting to other bodies with specialized expertise in sustainability and sustainable development.

Working Language(s)

English

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 or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **10 October 2025**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **10 October 2025**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial 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. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning the IAEA InTouch+ platform.

In addition to the registration already submitted through the InTouch+ platform, participants have to submit the abstract, together with the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B), to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than .

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by .

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **10 October 2025**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

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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.