



IAEA

Atoms for Peace
and Development

**Symposium on International Safeguards:
Innovation and Resilience in a Changing World –
Safeguards as a Shared Responsibility**

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

9–12 November 2026

**Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Background

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards are a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The cornerstone of that regime, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has helped stem nuclear proliferation for more than five decades. IAEA safeguards promote greater confidence at the State, regional and international levels by providing assurances that States are complying with their safeguards obligations in fulfillment of their obligations under the NPT and other non-proliferation commitments. In so doing, IAEA safeguards also contribute to strengthening collective security and help to create an environment conducive to nuclear cooperation.

The IAEA holds a Symposium on International Safeguards every four years. The previous Symposium was held under the theme ‘Reflecting on the Past and Anticipating the Future’ in 2022. Since then, the global nuclear landscape has continued to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Rapid technological advancements, renewed interest in nuclear energy and its applications, shifting geopolitical dynamics, as well as unprecedented safety and security risks to safeguards operations in the field are all reshaping both the opportunities and challenges facing the safeguards system. These developments underscore the growing importance of resilience, adaptability and cooperation in ensuring the continued effectiveness and credibility of Agency safeguards.

Emerging and disruptive technologies are transforming the nuclear sector. Advances in, for example, additive manufacturing, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics, offer significant potential to enhance safeguards’ effectiveness and efficiency. At the same time, they can introduce vulnerabilities, complexities and risks that must be carefully managed. Accordingly, the Agency is required to increasingly adapt to these technological changes to ensure that safeguards remain robust, secure and fit for purpose.

Concurrently, renewed global interest in nuclear energy and its applications is accelerating. Countries are pursuing new nuclear programmes, life extensions of existing facilities, and advanced, mobile and small modular reactor technologies. Beyond power generation, nuclear science and technology continues to expand in fields such as medicine. Interest and investments in fusion technology are growing. While these developments contribute to climate goals and sustainable development, they also increase the scope and complexity of safeguards activities, placing additional demands on the Agency’s verification capabilities and institutional capacities.

Within the IAEA Department of Safeguards, the growing volume and complexity of verification work continue to strain limited human, financial and technical resources. Expanding inspection requirements, increasing data flows and rising novelties in designs require sustained investment in capacity building, workforce development and organizational resilience. Ensuring that safeguards remain effective and can continue to deliver credible safeguards conclusions depends not only on technological innovation, but also on institutional adaptability, including robust knowledge management, advanced verification techniques and sustained cooperation across the safeguards’ ecosystem.

Recent years have also been marked by a challenging and fast evolving international security environment. Geopolitical tensions and military conflicts have affected in-field verification activities, while disruptions to multilateral cooperation have challenged long-standing norms of nuclear non-proliferation. Restrictions on access, limitations on verification activities, and risks to the safety and security of IAEA staff significantly impact safeguards operations in times of crisis. These realities also highlight the essential role of safeguards in supporting global security and confidence-building, even under adverse conditions.

B. Purpose and Objectives

Against this backdrop, the 2026 Symposium provides a timely platform for dialogue and reflection and a forum for scientific and technical exchanges on the latest research and development (R&D) in support of nuclear verification. Recognizing that each stakeholder plays a distinct yet complementary role, the Symposium brings together State and regional regulators, facility operators, nuclear industry representatives, subject matter experts, analysts and researchers, as well as policymakers and diplomats to examine how the safeguards community can respond to contemporary challenges and seize emerging opportunities.

By fostering open exchange and shared learning, the Symposium aims to strengthen collective commitment, and action on nuclear non-proliferation, and reinforce the scientific and technical foundations that underpin the safeguards system. By sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned, participants will explore how effective coordination and cooperation can enhance collective performance.

As previous events, the Symposium will seek to generate ideas for action for the safeguards community at large, and will examine progress made towards the set of ideas for action, under six different themes, that were identified at the 2022 Symposium.

The theme of the 2026 Symposium is ‘Innovation and Resilience in a Changing World – Safeguards as a Shared Responsibility’ (see section C). The objectives of the Symposium are to:

- *Innovate* – take stock of latest and still emerging scientific and technological (S&T) advancements, and share and advance ideas on how to integrate them into safeguards approaches, methods and technologies for enhanced Agency capabilities and increased effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards.
- *Build resilience* – identify effective organizational approaches, practices, and cultures for adapting to and withstanding resource scarcity, technological complexity and environmental uncertainty to ensure the continued delivery of credible and timely verification.
- *Converge* – enhance shared awareness and understanding of new the challenges facing the safeguards community that arise from the changing operating environment, and build common resolve and partnerships to ensure the system’s continued effectiveness.

C. Themes and Topics

The themes of **Innovation**, **Resilience**, and **Safeguards as a Shared Responsibility** reflect the evolving demands placed on the safeguards system and the collective efforts and innovation required to sustain its effectiveness.

Innovation refers to the opportunities for leveraging new and still emerging technologies for verification approaches, methods and tools for increased effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards. The IAEA Department of Safeguards monitors and explores potential for scientific and technological advancements to enhance its capabilities. Most recently, its [2025 Emerging Technologies Workshop](#) focused on artificial intelligence and in early 2026, the Agency is releasing updates to its *Enhancing Capabilities for Nuclear Verification – Resource Mobilization Priorities* and the *Development and Implementation Programme 2026-2027* to mobilize support from [Member State Support Programmes \(MSSPs\)](#) and other partners for the advancement of its capabilities and strategic initiatives. In line with the most recent updates to departmental strategy as outlined in these documents, related topics of interest include:

- Safeguards approaches and regulatory frameworks for novel nuclear technologies, including mobile, micro, small and /or modular reactors, nuclear propulsion, and fusion systems
- Safeguards approaches and instrumentation for safeguarding enrichment plants and spent fuel
- Innovative safeguards methods and techniques
- Deployment of artificial intelligence, machine learning and advanced analytics
- Approaches to data integration, management and governance
- Robotics and other intelligent automation technologies
- Advancements in geospatial, space-borne and other sensors
- Untapped technologies not yet leveraged to safeguards purposes
- Mechanisms for generating innovation in the safeguards' community.

Resilience refers to the capacity of the safeguards system to anticipate, adapt to and withstand emerging challenges while continuing to deliver credible and timely verification. In an era characterized by rapid technological change, expanding nuclear activities and associated verification workloads, and increasing geopolitical uncertainty, strengthening organizational resilience has become essential. The Symposium will explore innovative institutional approaches, advanced technologies and adaptive governance practices that support business continuity, agility and long-term organizational capacity. Related topics include:

- Strategies for managing surges in verification activities in light of the growing interest in nuclear power and other applications
- Strengthening organizational agility and resilience through effective change management
- Fostering an anticipatory and responsive organizational culture to prepare for and adapt to changing demands and expectations
- Remote data transmission, process monitoring and other technologies enabling continuity of safeguards in disruptions
- Applying lessons learnt and best practices in risk management and continuity planning to overcome disruptions
- Information security approaches for improved system resilience
- Effective and efficient operational oversight and lifecycle management of AI tools

Safeguards as a Shared Responsibility reflects the cooperative nature of safeguards implementation. While the Agency holds the mandate and operational responsibility for safeguards, both effectiveness and efficiency of implementation depend on the active engagement of all stakeholders from facility designers and technology developers to operators, regulators and States. As new and emerging technologies reshape nuclear activities, they also challenge existing technical and regulatory frameworks, requiring greater cooperation and adaptability to ensure continued effectiveness of the safeguards system. Related topics of interest include:

- Alignment of training and other capacity building support with State-identified priorities
- Embedding sustainable training approaches within evolving institutional and human capacity contexts
- Engaging the nuclear industry early in the design and planning phase ('safeguards by design')
- Role of traditional and non-traditional partnerships
- Adaptive governance and regulatory frameworks for managing disruptive technologies that could undermine safeguards (e.g., additive manufacturing, AI)
- Frameworks for joint development and deployment of safeguards technologies
- Addressing stakeholder perceptions of IAEA safeguards

D. Structure

The Symposium will follow an interactive and forward-looking format, building on the successful approaches of previous Symposia. It will emphasize dialogue, the exchange of practical experience, the generation of new ideas and the meaningful involvement of industry and experts from emerging and adjacent domains with growing relevance to safeguards.

The Symposium will comprise an opening plenary session, a series of topical parallel sessions addressing the main themes, and a closing plenary session. Participant paper submissions into the web-based abstract submission system INDICO will inform the development of the technical programme. A preliminary programme will be made available on the Symposium web page well in advance of the event. The final programme and submitted papers will be accessible to registered participants through the IAEA Conferences and Meetings application.

To support the achievement of the Symposium's objectives, topical sessions will be designed to promote active engagement and collaboration among participants. These sessions will include:

- Presentations by invited speakers, followed by moderated question-and-answer sessions and open discussion;
- Panel sessions bringing together diverse perspectives on key issues;
- Poster sessions, including pre-recorded presentations available for on-demand viewing; and
- Short interactive formats aimed identifying innovative ideas and demonstrating practical solutions.

In addition, a range of side events may be organized in conjunction with the Symposium, including training sessions, workshops, networking and recruitment events, and technical tours.

E. Expected Outcomes

The outcome of the Symposium will include a report, to be issued following the event, highlighting key insights and ideas for action for the safeguards community. The Symposium website, will serve as repository of the submitted papers, posters and recordings of the event.

F. Target Audience

Potential attendees and relevant organizations include:

- Safeguards practitioners in national or regional safeguards authorities, nuclear facilities or other organizations;
- Diplomats and policy makers from States dealing with nuclear non-proliferation and verification matters;
- Managers and experts of national, regional and international organizations that are concerned with topics related to international safeguards and/or verification;
- Academics, and teaching/research staff from universities, and associated institutes and research centres;
- Representatives of technical and scientific R&D organizations;
- Analysts and researchers from non-governmental organizations, think tanks and civil society;
- Representatives of the nuclear industry and vendors and supplier organizations;

- Members of professional associations working with nuclear issues;
- Representatives of the next generation of nuclear and safeguards professionals; and
- IAEA leadership, managers and staff.

G. Call for Papers

Contributions on the topics listed in Section C are welcome as oral or poster presentations. All submissions, apart from invited papers, must present original work, which has not been published elsewhere.

G.1. Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts (approximately 150 to 200 words on one A4 page, may contain any charts, graphs, figures and references) should give enough information on the content of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Anyone wishing to present at the symposium must submit an abstract in electronic format using the symposium's file submission system ([IAEA-INDICO](#)), which is accessible from the symposium web page (see Section Q). The abstract can be submitted through this system until **15 April 2026**. Specifications for the layout will be available on IAEA-INDICO. The system for electronic submission of abstracts, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed abstracts. Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

In addition, authors must register online using the InTouch+ platform (see Section H). The online registration together with the auto-generated Participation Form (Form A) and Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) must reach the IAEA no later than **15 April 2026**.

IMPORTANT: The Programme Committee will consider uploaded abstracts only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section H).

G.2. Acceptance of Abstracts

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude abstracts that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics listed in Section C.

Authors will be informed by **30 June 2026** as to whether their submission has been accepted.

A limited number of abstracts will be selected for oral or poster presentation. Authors of all accepted abstracts are requested to submit full papers.

Accepted contributions will also be reproduced in an unedited electronic compilation of abstracts which will be made available to all registered participants of the symposium.

G.3 Submission of Full Papers

Authors of accepted abstracts, for both oral and poster presentation, will be requested to submit a full paper in Word format, of about 1000-2000 words in length. Guidelines and a template for the preparation and submission of full papers will be provided on the Symposium web page and INDICO system.

Full papers must also be submitted through the [IAEA-INDICO](#) file submission system in Word format. Submitting the paper in the indicated electronic format is mandatory. A compilation of full papers (in electronic format) will be made available to participants at registration.

The IAEA reserves the right to exclude papers that do not comply with its quality standards and those that do not apply to one of the topics outlined in Section C above, do not meet the guidelines, and those that do not meet the expectations based on the information in the abstract.

The deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as Word files is **15 August 2026**. The IAEA will not accept papers submitted after the deadline.

IMPORTANT: The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed papers. Authors are encouraged to submit papers as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

G.4 Proceedings

Following the Symposium, the IAEA will publish a summary report that will be made available to read online. The Symposium website, will serve as repository of the submitted papers, posters and recordings of the event.

H. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be a member of an organization that has been invited to attend. The list of invited organizations is available on the event web page (see Section Q).

Registration through the InTouch+ platform:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):

- Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can [sign in here](#) 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 ‘Basic Profile’ (if no financial support is requested) or under ‘Complete Profile’ (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
- Search for the relevant event (**EVT2501013**) 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 Conference.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 Participation Form (Form A), Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and/or 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 form(s) will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: Should prospective participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section O).

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.

If it is not possible to submit the application through the InTouch+ platform, prospective participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via email: Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

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. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

I. 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 conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover 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 conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section H). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are submitted by **30 April 2026**.

Applications must be accompanied by Participation Form (Form A) and Grant Application Form (Form C) which are autogenerated in the InTouch+ platform.

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

J. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary and final programme will be made available on the symposium web page (see Section Q) prior to the start of the conference. The electronic compilation of abstracts will be accessible free of charge to participants registered for the symposium.

K. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the symposium. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email [Safeguards2026@iaea.org] by **12 June 2026**.

L. Working Language

The working language of the symposium will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

M. Venue and Accommodation

The symposium will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. 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.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on <https://www.iaea.org/events>. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

N. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as three months but not later than 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.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information document available on <https://www.iaea.org/events>.

O. Key Deadlines and Dates

Submission of abstracts through IAEA-INDICO	15 April
Submission of Form B (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	15 April
Submission of Form C (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	30 April
Notification of acceptance of abstracts for oral or poster presentation	30 June
Electronic submission of full papers through IAEA-INDICO	15 August
Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request) through the InTouch+ platform	30 October

P. Symposium Secretariat

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretaries and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

Q. Symposium Web Page

Please visit the IAEA symposium <https://www.iaea.org/events/safeguards-symposium-2026> regularly for new information regarding this symposium.