



Annual Meeting of the Forum on the Safety Case for All Radioactive Waste Management Activities and Facilities

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

23 - 27 November 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2503950

Information Sheet

Introduction

As national programmes for radioactive waste management have developed, considerable effort has been put into developing systematic and internationally recognized approaches for demonstrating the safety of radioactive waste management facilities in particular through the development of safety cases for specific facilities. Demonstrating the safety of a facility is based on the qualitative and quantitative arguments given in the safety case on the different aspects of the facility during all potential situations. This includes the conduct of safety assessments.

The IAEA has over a considerable period of time organised various international meetings and projects that have made significant advances in the development of safety cases for different types of radioactive waste management facilities (e.g. storage, near surface disposal, geological disposal, borehole disposal, multinational disposal...); however, they have typically considered these facilities separately. Once all the individual projects (GEOSAF, HIDRA, Forum on Near Surface, Craft, PRISM) came to an end, a need was identified together with Member States, to integrate the individual approaches of demonstrating safety of the different facilities into a forum of exchange that would, among other things, allow a comparison on how safety is addressed for the different facilities and highlight the aspects and components important for safety of the different types of facilities.

The new International Forum on the Safety Case for All Radioactive Waste Management Activities and Facilities was launched in 2025, with the aim to establish a global platform for shared learning and harmonized approaches, as well as to strengthen the development and use of safety cases for all types of predisposal management and disposal of all types of radioactive waste. The Forum brings together national experience in radioactive waste treatment, storage and near surface, geological, borehole disposal, enabling Member States to share good practices and discuss how and on which structure, features and components safety is relying on. The Forum also emphasizes the role of the safety case in applying a graded approach for demonstrating safety and in building confidence among decision makers,

regulators, operators and the public by transparently demonstrating the high levels of protection achieved in radioactive waste management.

Three working groups were initiated to address: harmonization of safety case elements; building stakeholder confidence in and through the safety case; and decision-making across facility lifecycles.

In addition to being addressed in a dedicated working group within the Forum, the concept of decision-making was further explored in a dedicated workshop held November 2025, hosted by Spain, examining the full sequence of decisions required to develop a geological disposal facility—from concept and siting through construction, operation, closure, and post-closure. The workshop explored the basis of each decision, clarified the roles of stakeholders (government, regulators, operators and the public) in each decision, and identified the competencies needed for meaningful contribution to the decisions. These insights will feed into an upcoming TECDOC on regulatory preparedness for reviewing licence applications for geological disposal facilities. The Forum will also explore how the decision could be translated and applied to other types of radioactive waste management facilities and activities.

The IAEA has also set out a framework of internationally agreed standards for nuclear safety, radiation protection, transport and radioactive waste management. As stated in SSG-23 and GSG-3, a safety case includes: a safety case context, the safety strategy, the system description, safety assessment, limits, controls and conditions, iteration and design optimization, management of uncertainty, and integration of safety arguments. The additional aim is to review and discuss the current general content of safety cases and safety assessments to ensure their ongoing validity.

The Forum will help inform the application of the IAEA safety standards by providing foundational material that clarifies requirements and explores practical considerations common to safety cases for predisposal and near-surface, geological, and borehole disposal facilities. A key focus will be on how to utilise the safety case to build confidence among all stakeholders and support decision-making throughout the lifecycle of waste management and disposal facilities.

Objectives

The primary objective of the Forum is to integrate diverse experience across a variety of radioactive waste management facilities (e.g., treatment, storage, near surface disposal, geologic disposal, borehole disposal) and activities. This Forum will facilitate sharing experience and practical considerations for the use of the safety case to build confidence among all decision makers and stakeholders in the safety of radioactive waste management and highlight the robust levels of protection that are expected and implemented for radioactive waste management activities.

Specific emphases include:

- Identifying common elements from safety cases for a variety of facilities and activities, evaluating the potential for harmonization and exploring how a generic safety case could be adapted to a specific type of facility (e.g. storage, surface disposal, or borehole disposal) and across different types of facilities.
- Identifying elements of the safety case that contribute to improved confidence in the safety of radioactive waste management activities and providing examples of how to effectively utilize those elements.

Discuss and compare the different approaches for demonstrating safety of the different predisposal and disposal facilities, and as such highlight those components, features and structures that are important for such a demonstration of safety

- Identifying concepts that may be difficult to explain but can contribute to improved confidence in the safety of radioactive waste management activities.
- Developing examples to effectively explain the concepts identified.

- Exploring how these examples can be effectively implemented in a communication strategy for a wide range of stakeholders.
- Describing the safety case contributions to decision making throughout the lifecycle of a radioactive waste management facility and implementing change control as the facility and the safety case evolve.
- Providing recommendations, as appropriate, for clarification of existing IAEA requirements and guidance relevant to the safety case.

The purpose of the Annual Forum Meeting is to exchange information on the status of the safety cases for all radioactive waste management activities and facilities in Member States and to discuss the current challenges associated with developing and using the safety cases. Member States will be invited to share their national experiences and the Forum's Working Groups will also meet to discuss their specific topics and start developing their outputs/technical notes.

The Forum will provide support to IAEA Member States according to their level of advancement in developing safety cases for their own facilities and activities. For example, some countries may seek assistance in developing safety cases for early phases of disposal, while others may be more interested in the later phases. Other Member States could benefit from sharing experience in the development of safety cases for storage facilities. Therefore, a forum where demonstration of safety is addressed for all facilities and activities at all steps of their development, all Member States will be offered comprehensive support, ensuring they can meet the needs for their respective programmes, regardless of their current status in radioactive waste management development.

Target Audience

Member States are invited to designate suitably qualified and experienced participants for the meeting. Participants should be drawn from organizations responsible for the management of radioactive waste, from regulatory bodies, or from technical support, or other organizations, including non-governmental organizations, involved in activities related to the management of radioactive waste and the development, use and review of safety cases and safety assessments for radioactive waste in predisposal activities and all types of disposal facilities. The IAEA would appreciate the designation of participants who have already been involved in the activities of the Forum on the Safety Case for All Radioactive Waste Management Activities and Facilities. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

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 **11 September 2026**, 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 **11 September 2026**.

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 11 September 2026.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **11 September 2026**.

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 **11 September 2026**.

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.