

JC/RM4/05

30 May 2012

**Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management
and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management**

Fourth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties

14 to 23 May 2012

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REVIEW MEETING

FINAL

Chang Sun Kang
President of the 4th Review Meeting
of the Contracting Parties
of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management
and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

General

1. The Fourth Review Meeting pursuant to Article 30 of the Convention was held at the Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, 14-23 May 2012.
2. Fifty-four Contracting Parties participated in the Review Meeting, namely: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Euratom, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and United States of America. Among these, eight Contracting Parties participated for the first time: Cyprus, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Montenegro, Portugal, Republic of Moldova and United Arab Emirates. Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova and Senegal did not provide a technical presentation of their respective National Reports.
3. Nine Contracting Parties did not participate in the Review Meeting, namely Chile, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tajikistan, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. Furthermore, Chile, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan had not submitted a National Report.
4. The Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was present as observer, as agreed at the Organizational Meeting.
5. A list of participants was issued as JC/RM4/06.

Opening of the Review Meeting

6. Mr Chang Sun Kang, the President of the Review Meeting, opened the meeting. He welcomed Contracting Parties to the Fourth Review Meeting.
7. Mr Denis Flory, Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, was invited to make introductory remarks. He noted that Fukushima accident and its consequences had clearly reinforced the essential role of the Joint Convention and the importance of the regular Review Meetings. He welcomed the increase in the number of Contracting Parties to 63, and emphasized the importance of the role of the Contracting Parties in ensuring that the review process is efficient and continuously improved and in promoting the Joint Convention and the benefits of adhesion, in particular for those countries that plan to embark on nuclear power programmes.
8. Mr Kang, in his opening remarks, welcomed the 15 new Contracting Parties that had acceded to the Joint Convention since the previous Review Meeting. He emphasized especially the content of his letter of 8 March 2012, namely his request to the Contracting Parties to consider the opportunity of addressing at this Review Meeting any implications of the Fukushima accident on national strategies for and safety concerns relating to spent fuel management. He noted that the Joint Convention and related Review Meetings are essential contributors to achieving a high level of safety and he encouraged all Contracting Parties to take part in the discussions, in a constructive manner, to guarantee the success of this Review Meeting.

9. A written statement had been provided by the United States of America, in accordance with paragraph 15 of the Guidelines regarding the Review Process (INFCIRC/603/Rev.4). This was distributed to the Review Meeting.

Officers of the Meeting

10. Officers of the Review Meeting had been identified at the Organizational Meeting held in May 2011.

11. Noting that some Contracting Parties had notified the Secretariat since the Organizational Meeting of two changes to the names of Officers, the Review Meeting confirmed the revised list of Officers as reflected in Annex 1.

12. The President of the Review Meeting was Mr Chang Sun Kang, Chairman and Chief Regulatory Officer of the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission, Republic of Korea. The Vice-President was Ms Olena Mykolaichuk, Chairperson of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine. Mr Andy Hall, Deputy Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, United Kingdom, who had been elected second Vice-President of the review process at the Organizational Meeting held in May 2011, was unable to carry out this role during the Review Meeting. The Contracting Parties agreed that Mr Mark Bassett, Deputy Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, United Kingdom, would act as Vice-President for the duration of the Meeting.

13. The General Committee of the Review Meeting comprised the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the six Country Group Chairpersons, namely Mr Dejan Trifunovic, Croatia; Mr Larry Camper, United States of America; Mr Jean-Jacques Dumont, France; Mr Kazumasa Hioki, Japan; Mr Peter Lietava, Czech Republic; and Mr Werner Mester, Germany.

14. The Officers of the Fourth Review Meeting had met on 12 and 13 May 2012 to discuss and agree on the details of the schedule of the Review Meeting and the roles and duties of each officer.

Adoption of the Agenda

15. The provisional agenda for the Review Meeting, which had been prepared at the Organizational Meeting, was adopted (Annex 2).

Late Ratifiers

16. As of 14 May 2012, there were no late ratifiers.

Credentials of Participants

17. On 14 May, the President referred to the requirement of Rule 8 in the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/602/Rev.3) that credentials be presented for all delegates, and that names of alternates, advisers and experts also be submitted. The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should examine the credentials and report back to the closing Plenary Session.

18. On 21 May, the Legal Officer of the IAEA reported on the examination of credentials. Based on this report, the President proposed that the Meeting accept the credentials of the delegates as presented by the Contracting Parties participating in this Meeting, on the understanding that those delegations that had so far submitted only provisional credentials

would provide the Secretary with formal credentials as soon as possible. There was a consensus among the Contracting Parties to accept the President's proposal.

Invitations to Intergovernmental Organizations

19. In accordance with Article 33 (2) of the Joint Convention, and pursuant to Rule 11.2.F of the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/602/Rev.3), the Contracting Parties had decided by consensus at the Organizational Meeting held in May 2011 to invite the OECD/NEA to participate as observer in the plenary sessions of the Review Meeting. The representative of the OECD/NEA provided a statement to the Review Meeting.

General Organization of the Review Process

20. The President requested that any general issues that any Contracting Party wished to raise be brought to the attention of a member of the General Committee. The General Committee, comprising the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the six Country Group Chairpersons, met every day during the midday break between Country Group sessions at the President's Office, to discuss general issues of the Review Meeting.

21. The tentative timetable for the review process was presented and adopted by consensus. It is attached as Annex 3.

22. The six Country Groups met in parallel over the period from 14 to 18 May, according to the adopted timetable. Contracting Parties with five or more nuclear power plants were assigned 4 hours for the presentation and review of their national reports; Contracting Parties with fewer than five nuclear power plants were assigned 3 hours for the presentation and review of their national reports; and Contracting Parties without nuclear power plants were assigned 2 hours for the presentation and review of their national reports.

23. The Rapporteur of each Country Group prepared a report for each Contracting Party within the Country Group session and these were approved by the Contracting Parties of that Country Group. These daily reports were submitted to the General Committee.

Rapporteurs' Reports

24. The six Rapporteurs presented their summary of the Country Group sessions at the Plenary Sessions on 21 and 22 May. All Contracting Parties present were given the opportunity of commenting.

25. The findings of the Rapporteurs are summarized in the Summary Report.

26. The Contracting Parties unanimously thanked the Rapporteurs for their excellent work in summarizing the contents of the discussions that took place in the Country Groups.

27. The Contracting Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to upload the Rapporteurs' reports on the JCWeb, to which access is limited to the Contracting Parties.

Open-Ended Working Group

28. On 14 May, the President drew the meeting's attention to a matter arising from the Organizational Meeting that took place in May 2011, namely the possibility for the Contracting Parties to establish an Open-Ended Working Group, as suggested at the

Organizational Meeting. There was a consensus among the Contracting Parties to establish an Open-Ended Working Group.

29. The President proposed Mr Bassett, Acting Vice-President, as Chairperson. The Contracting Parties approved by consensus the proposal.

30. Mr Bassett presented proposals for the topics to be discussed at the Open-Ended Working Group and the schedule for the meetings of the Group. The Contracting Parties approved the proposals and schedule by consensus.

31. The Open-Ended Working Group met on 15, 16 and 17 May, from 5.30pm. The Group discussed and prepared recommendations on the following topics:

- Proposal 1: Education and training opportunities for spent fuel and radioactive waste management available to all Contracting Parties to maintain qualified staff;
- Proposal 2: Consideration of the Comprehensive Nuclear Fuel Services;
- Proposal 3 (a): A new tool to enhance the effectiveness of the peer review;
- Proposal 3 (b): A specific proposal to improve time management during the country group sessions;
- Proposal 3 (c) and 6: Proposals for inter-sessional meetings;
- Proposal 4: Enhance the continuity of knowledge of the Convention process;
- Proposal 5: Shedding light again on safety and security interface;
- Proposal 7: Improving the reporting of safe management of disused sealed sources under the Joint Convention;
- Proposal 8: Creation of a mechanism to ensure coherence and benchmark between the rules governing the review process of the Joint Convention and those of the Convention on Nuclear Safety;
- Proposal 9: Changed role for the Coordinator during the Review Meeting.

32. On 22 May, Mr Bassett presented to the Plenary a report of the work carried out by the Open-Ended Working Group. The recommendations by the Group contained in this report, together with the corresponding draft changes to the Rules and the Guidelines, were adopted in the Plenary. The report of the Open-Ended Working Group is provided as Annex 4.

Approval of the Summary Report

33. As provided for in Article 34 of the Joint Convention, a Summary Report was prepared to be published at the end of Review Meeting. The President summarized major issues, combining important points made in the Rapporteurs' reports that summarized the Country Group discussions, and submitted it to the final plenary session for adoption by consensus by Contracting Parties.

34. The first draft of the Summary Report was distributed to the participants, in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, on 22 May.

35. The draft Summary Report was examined paragraph by paragraph on 22 and 23 May and amended as necessary. The final version was approved by the Contracting Parties by

consensus. The Contracting Parties requested that the Report of the Open-Ended Working Group be also attached to the Summary Report.

36. The final Summary Report of the Fourth Review Meeting was issued as JC/RM4/04/Rev.2.

Miscellaneous

37. In relation to lessons learned following the accident at Fukushima, the structural integrity of spent fuel storage facilities and the adequate coolability of spent fuel following seismic activities should be further investigated to ensure the safety of spent fuel management. Furthermore, dry spent fuel storage should be addressed following a flooding condition for its safety assurance.

Recommendation for subsequent Review Meetings

38. For subsequent Review Meetings of the Joint Convention, Contracting Parties are advised, for their National Reports and presentations to the Review Meeting, to focus particularly on safety specific technical matters of radioactive waste and spent fuel management.

Presentation of the President's Report

39. The President presented a draft of his report to the meeting.

40. The Review Meeting took note of this Report of the President of the Fourth Review Meeting, and requested the Secretary to transmit this report and its Annexes to the Director General of the IAEA, thereby informing him of the decisions taken at the Review Meeting, and to the Contracting Parties.

Availability of Reports

41. The Contracting Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to upload the final Summary Report on the IAEA public website.

42. The Contracting Parties also agreed to make the President's Report publicly available and requested the Secretariat to upload the final President's Report on the IAEA public website.

43. The Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide the Secretariat with the URLs of their National Reports so that the Secretariat may provide these links on the IAEA public website.

Next Review Meeting

44. The meeting agreed upon dates for the next Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, and associated deadlines. These are shown in Annex 5.

Closing of the Meeting

45. Mr Flory, Secretary to the Joint Convention and Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security in the IAEA, was invited to make some closing remarks. In his address, he congratulated and thanked all delegates for the successful completion of the Fourth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel

Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. He noted the commitment of the Contracting Parties to the review process, but emphasized that efforts must continue to ensure that all Contracting Parties fulfill their obligations under the Joint Convention, in particular by developing a National Report and participating in the Review Meetings and to further increase the number of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention.

46. He also thanked all the Officers for their commitment to their role in Country Group sessions and encouraged Contracting Parties to propose candidates for the different Officers' positions when the time comes to prepare the next Review Meeting.

47. He felt that this was an opportune time to reflect on further improvement of the review process, in particular by adapting it to the increasing number of Contracting Parties, with a view to ensuring its efficiency and providing the Contracting Parties with a means to contribute to reaching a high level of safety.

48. He noted that, despite the progress observed during this Review Meeting on the safety of spent fuel management and on the safety of radioactive waste management, high level waste and spent fuel management remain a challenge for many countries. Other challenges are the management of disused sealed sources, and the need to encourage countries planning to embark on nuclear power programmes to become Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention: they should be aware of their responsibilities with regard to radioactive waste management and be assisted to an adequate degree to allow them to face these responsibilities.

49. Mr Flory's overall message was one of optimism, as safety of spent fuel management and safety of radioactive waste management continue to progress worldwide, and the lessons from the Fukushima accident are being learned and will contribute to maintaining the effort for reaching a higher level of safety worldwide.

50. Finally, Mr Flory offered his sincere thanks to President Kang and to the two Vice Presidents, who promptly replaced the President when needed, and allowed the General Committee meetings and the Open-Ended Working Group sessions to run in a perfect manner.

51. The President, in his closing remarks, thanked participants for their hard work and support during the Review Meeting. The substantial increase in number of Contracting Parties was clear evidence, he recognized, that the importance of the Joint Convention in realizing the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste has been acknowledged among the international community.

52. The essential responsibility and central role of the IAEA in supporting the efforts of Contracting Parties to fulfill their nuclear safety responsibilities was highlighted in his closing remarks. The value of international cooperation was also encouraged.

53. Noting the Fukushima accident of March 2011, the President emphasized the interface between nuclear safety and security that have in common the aim of protecting human life and health and the environment. In this regard, he underlined that nuclear safety and security measures should be designed, implemented and managed in nuclear facilities and materials in a coherent and synergistic manner.

54. The President identified in his closing remarks additional issues and challenges to achieve and maintain a high level of safety in spent fuel and radioactive waste management, namely:

- Interface between safety and security in spent fuel management
- Post-Fukushima impacts to spent fuel storage facilities
- Communication with the general public
- Funding for spent fuel and radioactive waste management
- Resolution of spent fuel management policy and scheme
- Human resources development against shortage of man-power
- Prevention of orphan sources and robust management of contaminated scrap metals
- Management of research reactors safety
- Utilization of IAEA safety review services such as IRRS.

55. The Contracting Parties expressed its sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for the excellent services provided in support of the Review Meeting. In addition, the Review Meeting thanked the interpreters and translators for their prompt and accurate services during the Country Group and Plenary sessions.

Annex 1**Table of Officers for the 4th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention**

President: Mr Chang Sun Kang (Republic of Korea)

Vice Presidents: Ms Olena Mykolaichuk (Ukraine) Mr Andy Hall (United Kingdom)

Acting Vice President and Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group: Mr Mark Bassett (United Kingdom)

| | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 | Group 6 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Chairperson | Mr D. Trifunovic Croatia | Mr L. Camper United States of America | Mr J.J. Dumont France | Mr K. Hioki Japan | Mr P. Lietava Czech Rep | Mr W. Mester Germany |
| Vice- Chairperson | Mr Anxi Cui China | Mr S. Woollett Australia | Mr M. Hugi Switzerland | Ms H. Roman Canada | Ms A. Shehhi United Arab Emirates | Mr M. Turner Slovakia |
| Rapporteur | Mr J. Cheong Korea | Ms M. Skrzeczowska Poland | Mr E. Garcia Neri Spain | Ms L. Khechane South Africa | Mr J. Joyce United States of America | Mr M. Vannerem United Kingdom |
| Coordinator | Mr M. Ionescu Romania | Mr B. Hedberg Sweden | Ms M. Yamada Japan | Ms N. Zeleznik Slovenia | Mr G. Hillebrand Austria | Mr K. Hamalainen Finland |

Annex 2
Agenda of the Fourth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, as adopted

Opening Plenary (14 May 2012)

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Officers of the Meeting
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Request by late ratifiers to attend Plenary Sessions of the Review Meeting and to participate in discussions relating to the conduct of subsequent Review Meetings.
5. Credentials of participants
6. Invitations to intergovernmental organizations to attend the Review Meeting of Contracting Parties as observers
7. Procedural matters
 - (a) Matters arising from the Organizational Meeting
 - (b) Open-Ended Working Group
 - (c) The general organization of the review process

Country Group Sessions (14–18 May 2012)

Presentation and discussion of National Reports and approval of the Rapporteurs' daily reports

Final Plenary (21–23 May 2012)

8. Presentation and discussion of oral reports by Country Group Rapporteurs
9. Report by the Open-Ended Working Group
10. Dates for the next Review Meeting, the Organizational Meeting and the deadline for submission of National Reports for the Fifth Review Meeting.
11. Approval of Summary Report
12. Presentation of President's Report
13. Other business
14. Closing of the Meeting

Annex 3
Timetable for the Fourth Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, as adopted

| | | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 | Group 5 | Group 6 |
|-----------|-------------|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | | Plenary | | | | | |
| Monday | 14 May 2012 | Spain (S) | Greece | China (C) | Rep. of Moldova | Cyprus | Belarus (R) |
| | | | Lithuania | | Argentina(S) | Italy | Finland |
| Tuesday | 15 May 2012 | United States of America | Slovak Republic | Bulgaria | Ukraine (R) | Germany | Canada |
| | | TFYR Macedonia | EURATOM | Estonia | Denmark | Ireland | Latvia |
| Wednesday | 16 May 2012 | Belgium | Sweden | Japan | Czech Republic | Switzerland | Russian Federation (R) |
| | | Georgia | Tajikistan | Iceland | Montenegro | Luxembourg | Croatia |
| Thursday | 17 May 2012 | Netherlands | France (F) | Brazil | United Kingdom | Korea, Republic of | Norway |
| | | Romania | | Kazakhstan (R) | | | Poland |
| Friday | 18 May 2012 | UAE | South Africa | Morocco | Slovenia | Portugal | Hungary |
| | | Albania | | Senegal | | Nigeria | |
| | | | Ghana | Australia | | | |
| Saturday | 19 May 2012 | Preparation of Rapporteurs Report | | | | | |
| Sunday | 20 May 2012 | General Committee Meeting to discuss Rapporteurs reports and Summary Report | | | | | |
| Monday | 21 May 2012 | Meeting of President and Vice-Presidents | | | | | |
| | | Final Plenary - Discussion of Rapporteurs reports (14:00) | | | | | |
| Tuesday | 22 May 2012 | Final Plenary - Discussion of Rapporteurs reports, OEWG Report - Summary Report discussion | | | | | |
| Wednesday | 23 May 2012 | Final Plenary - Discussion of Summary report –and Presidents report | | | | | |

| Presentations | |
|---------------|--|
| 2 hrs | |
| 3 hrs | |
| 4 hrs | |

Annex 4
Summary of the Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)
of the 4th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention
May 15-17, 2012

Introduction

On May 15, 2012, Chairman Mark Bassett (UK), Acting Vice President opened the discussion and explained that the work of the OEWG would be challenging as there were effectively 11 proposals to discuss within three days. The Chair reminded the meeting of his statements in the Plenary that the proposals were being examined by not limiting the scope of the OEWG to the narrow interpretation of the 'functioning' of the Joint Convention process but in the spirit of the Joint Convention to share good practice.

The original proposals are available on the closed JCWeb.

The meeting met formally over three days followed by further consultations on the fourth and discussed the following:

- Proposal 1: Education and training opportunities for spent fuel and radioactive waste management available to all Contracting Parties to maintain qualified staff
- Proposal 2: Consideration of the Comprehensive Nuclear Fuel Services (accompanied by a presentation)
- Proposal 3 (a): A new tool to enhance the effectiveness of the peer review (replaced by an amended proposal during the meeting)
- Proposal 3 (b): A specific proposal to improve time management during the country group sessions
- Proposal 3 (c) and 6: Proposals for inter-sessional meetings(combined within the meeting)
- Proposal 4: Enhance the continuity of knowledge of the Convention process
- Proposal 5: Shedding light again on safety and security interface
- Proposal 7: Improving the reporting of safe management of disused sealed sources under the Joint Convention
- Proposal 8: Creation of a mechanism to ensure coherence and benchmark between the rules governing the review process of the Joint Convention and those of the Convention on Nuclear Safety
- Proposal 9: Changed role for the Coordinator during the Review Meeting

Conclusion

The OEWG recommends that the Contracting Parties of the 4th Review Meeting adopt its recommendations as set out in the Appendix to this report.

The OEWG recommends that the Secretariat be requested to conduct an editorial review of the proposed changes to the Guidelines, to ensure internal consistency between all guidance documents. On the understanding that wording changes resulting from this editorial review would not be substantive, it further recommends that the final text be circulated for tacit approval.

Appendix to Annex 4

Proposal 1: Education and training opportunities for spent fuel and radioactive waste management available to all Contracting Parties to maintain qualified staff

Outcome

The OEWG recognises the importance of education and training opportunities to ensure the human resources necessary to sustain spent fuel and radioactive waste management programs. The OEWG also noted the background information provided on education and training opportunities provided by the Secretariat, EU, and USA.

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that Contracting Parties take steps to promote education and training opportunities and to identify these opportunities by appropriate means such as inclusion in their national reports, and suggests that the Secretariat might consider a consolidated database of available opportunities.

Proposal 2: Consideration of the Comprehensive Nuclear Fuel Services

Outcome

The US made a presentation of its Comprehensive Fuel Services arrangement.

The Contracting Parties recognise the importance of having discussions on comprehensive approaches to the back-end of the fuel cycle. However, the Contracting Parties also noted that this is a complex issue, and some Contracting Parties stated that they needed further time to consider this topic.

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that Contracting Parties could continue discussions on comprehensive approaches to the back-end of the fuel cycle, inter alia, at the first topical meeting proposed in Proposal 3c/6.

Proposal 3 (a): Enhancing the effectiveness of the peer review,

Outcome

The United States submitted a revised proposal, which is available on the JCWeb, to enhance the effective implementation of the Joint Convention as called for in the IAEA Action Plan. Specifically, the United States proposal urges Contracting Parties to make a political commitment to follow certain principles in implementing the Joint Convention. These implementing principles address: (1) emphasizing steps to assure an effective, independent and transparent regulatory function; (2) recognizing the important contribution IAEA safety standards can make to achieving the objectives of the Joint Convention; (3) taking full advantage of international peer review missions; and (4) promoting greater transparency and openness by making certain information publically available.

While widespread support was expressed for the ideas reflected in the principles, some Contracting Parties expressed doubts as to whether the meetings held in the framework of the Joint Convention provided the appropriate forum for a declaration which was political in essence and which embodied concepts already being discussed in other fora having a more overarching and political perspective, such as the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety and the meetings leading to the adoption of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. Some Contracting Parties also expressed the view that more time would be needed before an eventual decision on a political commitment as contained in the US proposal could be given consideration. Some Contracting Parties also expressed the need for further consideration of how the principles were articulated and how the principles would relate to the Joint Convention.

Nevertheless, the OEWG noted any Contracting Party could consider the actions in the implementing principles when considering ways in which to enhance the effective implementation of the Joint Convention.

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that the United States proposal remains open and that Contracting Parties be prepared to discuss the proposal in greater detail at the next appropriate forum, for example one of the meetings as described in Proposal 3c/6.

Proposal 3(b): A specific proposal to improve time management during the country group sessions

Outcome

There was general agreement that the increasing number of Contracting Parties, in combination with time and resource constraints, makes it imperative to develop mechanisms to manage time and resources more effectively in order to maintain and increase the usefulness of the peer review process.

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that Contracting Parties continue to consider the United States proposal and potentially other proposals to manage time and resources better. In this regard, the Contracting Parties are encouraged to discuss the United States proposal and other potential time and resource management mechanisms at the next appropriate forum, for example one of the meetings as described in Proposal 3c/6.

Proposal 3(c): A proposed process to continue discussions and apply improvements prior to the Fifth Review Meeting
and

Proposal 6: Enhance the continuity and ongoing dialogue between Review meetings

Outcome

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that

1. The Secretariat is requested to organize additional meetings of Contracting Parties, subject to the availability of resources, to continue consideration of proposals to improve implementation of the Joint Convention and to develop recommendations for consideration by the Contracting Parties. The first such meeting would be expected to take place in early 2013, and a second opportunity could be in conjunction with the next Organizational Meeting of the Joint Convention. Pursuant to Article 31, an Extraordinary Meeting could be convened in order to adopt any revisions to the arrangements under the Joint Convention to take effect prior to the 5th Review Meeting.
2. Topical meetings should be held between Review Meetings to address specific topics identified at this and each subsequent Review Meeting, with a view to development of topical reports for presentation at the Review Meeting following the topical meeting. Each such meeting and related activities could be organized jointly by the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and a Contracting Party volunteering to host the meeting and should be structured in a manner that promotes continuity and on-going dialogue among the Contracting Parties. The topic for consideration at the first topical meeting could be a meeting to discuss various mechanisms for ensuring effective approaches to the back end of the fuel cycle.

Proposal 4: Enhance the continuity of knowledge of the Convention process

Outcome

The status and functions of the national Contact Points are clarified by inclusion in the Guidelines to the Joint Convention. Each national contact shall be invited, if they wish, to participate with Officers of the Convention in the handover meeting between incoming and outgoing Officers after the Organizational Meeting, to enhance the continuity of expertise and knowledge in the Joint Convention review process.

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that the text of INFCIRC/603/Rev.4 be amended as indicated below in bold.

INFCIRC/603/Rev 4, Paragraph 13: (sentence added):

13. Following the Organizational Meeting, a workshop of incoming and outgoing officers shall be held to describe the Review Meeting process in detail, including key documents, and to share experience and lessons learned. **The National Contacts, as described in the Annex, shall be invited to participate, if they consider it appropriate, in this meeting.**

INFCIRC/603/Rev 4, Annex: (new paragraph added after II.6 Coordinator):

II.7 National Contacts

National Contacts will be nominated by each Contracting Party and will be expected:

- (a) To have access to and regularly monitor the Joint Convention's secure and restricted database ("the Convention secure website"), together with the right to upload national documents, questions, and answers;**
- (b) To disseminate, nationally, information promulgated on the Convention secure website;**
- (c) To facilitate progress on issues related to the Convention in their own Member State;**
- (d) To act as contact for the Country Group Coordinator prior to each Review Meeting;**
and
- (e) To consider participating in the one-day meeting of incoming and outgoing Officers of the Joint Convention.**

INFCIRC/603/Rev 4, Annex: (new paragraph added after III.6 Coordinator):

III.7 National Contacts

It is desirable that National Contacts possess the following qualities:

- (a) Be available for contact and work between the Review Meetings;**
- (b) Have a knowledge of spent fuel and radioactive waste safety issues;**
- (c) Be familiar with electronic database management; and**
- (d) Have good English-language skill.**

Proposal 5: Shedding light again on safety and security interface

Outcome

The importance of the interface between security and safety in spent fuel management was recognised but it was decided that this specific proposal cannot be accepted as it fell outside the scope of the Joint Convention. Future considerations should be within other fora.

Proposal 7: Consideration of the status of disused sealed sources under the Joint Convention and the way to improve the report on their safe management through the review mechanisms, in order to facilitate information and experience sharing as well as peer reviews of this topic.

Outcome

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that the text of INFCIRC/604/Rev.1 be amended as indicated below in bold.

Section J. Disused Sealed Sources

32. This section covers the obligations under Article 28 (Disused Sealed Sources).

33. This section should give a comprehensive description of the legislative and regulatory system governing the management of disused sealed sources, including the following issues:

- status of disused sealed sources within the framework of its national legislation;**
- national strategy for the management of disused sealed sources, including the legal responsibilities, of manufacturers, suppliers, owners and users of sealed sources for their end-of-life management;**
- for Contracting Parties in which suppliers of sealed sources are or were located:**
 - the framework concerning the reentry of disused sealed sources into its territory for return to a manufacturer qualified to receive and possess the disused sealed sources and,**
 - the retrieval approach, if any, of sealed sources considered as having a national origin from a foreign state.**

Proposal 8: Creation of a mechanism to ensure coherence between the rules governing the review process of the Joint Convention and those of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

Outcome

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that in order to ensure coherence between the review process of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Contracting Parties of the Joint Convention urge the leadership of the Joint Convention to invite the leadership of the 5th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to a discussion (e.g. via video conference) on improvements to the effectiveness of each Convention and then to make a joint presentation at the 2012 IAEA General Conference on such improvements.

In the same spirit, the Contracting Parties of the Joint Convention invite the leadership of each convention to undertake informal discussions on a regular basis to ensure such coherence.

Proposal 9: Changed role for the Coordinator during the Review Meeting

Outcome

Recommendation

The OEWG recommends that the text of INFCIRC/602/Rev.3 and INFCIRC/603/Rev.4 be amended as indicated below in bold and strike-through.

Rules of Procedures and Financial Rules, INFCIRC/602/Rev.3:

B. PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR REVIEW MEETINGS

Rule 11 Organizational Meetings

- ~~C. elect Country Group Co-ordinators for the forthcoming Review Meeting;~~
D. elect Country Group **Co-ordinators**, Rapporteurs, Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for the forthcoming Review Meeting, and assign them to the Country Groups so that no **Co-ordinator**, Rapporteur, Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson is assigned to the Country Group of which his or her country is a member;

Guidelines on the Review Process, INFCIRC/603/Rev.4:

VIII. Guidance to Officers on how to Conduct a Country Group Session

~~46. The Coordinator's duties as an officer are completed at this point. Coordinators are therefore free to participate in their national delegations as desired.~~

IX. Distribution of National Reports and Subsequent Actions

53. The group Co-ordinator will analyse the questions and comments on national reports in his/her country group, and identify any trends in them in order to assist the Chairperson in the conduct of the discussion. This analysis should be distributed, confidentially, to the officers and Contracting Parties who are members of this country group in advance of the Review Meeting. ~~The Coordinators should participate in the 2-day meeting of officers immediately before the start of the Review Meeting (see para. 37), but are then free of officer responsibilities so that they can participate fully as members of their national delegations.~~

Guidelines on the Review Process, INFCIRC/603/Rev.4 — Annex:

II. Duties of Officers

II.6 Coordinator

- (a) ~~To sort all written questions, comments, and answers relating to national reports of his/her country group according to the Convention's articles;~~

Annex 5

Dates of Fifth Review Meeting and associated Organizational Meeting,

Deadline for Submission of National Reports for the Fifth Review Meeting and Other Important Deadlines

| Deadline for submission of nominations for President and Vice-Presidents | Deadline for submission of nominations for Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Rapporteurs and Coordinators | Organizational Meeting | Workshop of incoming and outgoing Officers | Deadline for submission of National Reports | Deadline for submission of questions and comments | Deadline for submission of answers | Start of Review Meeting |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| -14 months | -13 months | - 12 months | - 7 or 8 months | - 7 months | - 3 months | - 1 month | 0 day |
| Para. 7 of the Guidelines Regarding the Review Process | Para. 10 of the Guidelines Regarding the Review Process | Rule 11.1. in the Rules of Procedures and Financial Rules | Para. 13 of the Guidelines Regarding the Review Process and as agreed at the 4 th RM | Rule 38.1 in The Rules of Procedures and Financial Rules | Para. 50 of the Guidelines Regarding the Review Process | Para. 50 of the Guidelines Regarding the Review Process | Article 30.2(i) of the Convention |
| 11 March 2014 | 11 April 2014 | 12 -13 May 2014 | Sept/Oct 2014 | 10 October 2014 | 10 February 2015 | 10 April 2015 | 11 May 2015 |