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CNS/10RM/2026/08

10th Review Meeting
of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention on Nuclear Safety

13-24 April 2026
Vienna, Austria

Summary Report

Mr Faizan Mansoor, President
Mr Naoto Ichii, Vice-President
Mr Per Strand, Vice-President

Vienna, 24 April 2026

A. Introduction

1. The 10th Review Meeting (‘Review Meeting’) of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (the ‘Convention’) was held, pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, at the Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria from 13 to 24 April 2026. The President of the Review Meeting was Mr Faizan Mansoor from Pakistan. The Vice Presidents were Mr Naoto Ichii from Japan and Mr Per Strand from Norway.
2. This report summarises the key activities and outcomes of this Review Meeting based on the discussions of Contracting Parties held in the Country Group Sessions and in the Plenary Sessions.

B. Background

3. The Convention entered into force on 24 October 1996. As of April 2026, ninety-seven (97) States and one (1) regional organization were Contracting Parties to the Convention, and six (6) Signatory States had not yet ratified it. Of the ninety-eight (98) Contracting Parties, thirty-seven (37) had nuclear power plants (the ‘NPPs’) in operation, under construction and/or in permanent shutdown, of which twenty-six (26) had plants under construction or are considering them. Out of these, three (3) Contracting Parties (Bangladesh, Egypt and Türkiye) were constructing their first NPPs.
4. Eighty-seven (87) of the ninety-eight (98) Contracting Parties participated in the Review Meeting, namely: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and Euratom.
5. The following Contracting Parties attended the Review Meeting and did not deliver their National Presentations at their Country Group Sessions, namely: Albania, Angola, Kuwait, Libya, Republic of Moldova, Paraguay, Senegal and Tunisia.
6. Eleven (11) Contracting Parties did not attend the Review Meeting, namely: Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Congo, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar and Uruguay.
7. At the 10th Organizational Meeting held on 5 September 2024, Contracting Parties decided that the first week of the Review Meeting would consist of seven Country Groups. Pursuant to Rule 17 of the *Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules* (INFCIRC/573/Rev. 8), the meeting allocated Contracting Parties to Country Groups using the method as adopted during the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the CNS, reflected in Annex IV, Method of Determining the Composition of Country Groups, *Guidelines Regarding the Review Process under the Convention on Nuclear Safety*

(INFCIRC/571/Rev. 9). As a result, each Country Group included countries with nuclear power programmes of different sizes, as well as countries with no NPPs.

8. Contracting Parties had submitted National Reports for the Review Meeting describing specific measures taken by them to address the Articles of the Convention and to respond to Challenges and Suggestions identified at previous Review Meetings and by International Peer Review Missions. The National Reports were to be submitted by 1 September 2025 for review by other Contracting Parties, whose questions and comments were to be submitted by 15 December 2025, to be answered by 16 March 2026.
9. Thirteen (13) Contracting Parties did not submit a National Report for the Review Meeting, namely: Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Congo, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, and Tunisia. A further eleven (11) Contracting Parties submitted their National Report for the Review Meeting after the deadline, namely: Bahrain, Chile, China, Kuwait, Montenegro, Nigeria, Peru, Qatar, Senegal, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. In accordance with the *Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules* (INFCIRC/573/Rev.8) and the *Guidelines regarding the Review Process under the Convention on Nuclear Safety* (INFCIRC/571/Rev.9), Mongolia and Uzbekistan, as Contracting Parties that joined the CNS after the Organizational Meeting, but at least 90 days before the Review Meeting, had to submit their National Report “as soon as possible and in any event not later than 90 days before the Review Meeting” (para 13, INFCIRC/571/Rev. 9). Mongolia submitted its National Report on time, on 31 December 2025. Uzbekistan submitted its National Report on 2 March 2026, after the deadline.
10. Thirty-three (33) Contracting Parties did not pose any written questions or comments prior to the Review Meeting, namely: Albania, Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, and Zimbabwe.
11. Of the 5,481 written questions that had been submitted by Contracting Parties, responses were provided on time to 5,246, responses were provided late to 156, and no responses were provided to 79. All but three (3) Contracting Parties responded to their written questions, namely: Bangladesh, Lebanon and Tunisia.
12. At the time of the Review Meeting, twelve (12) Contracting Parties had made their National Reports publicly available on the IAEA website, namely: Argentina, Belarus, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Netherlands, Latvia, Malta, Romania, Slovakia and Switzerland. All National Reports submitted to the Review Meeting will be posted on the IAEA public website 90 days following the Review Meeting unless a Contracting Party objects in respect of its own National Report. Some Contracting Parties had also made their National Report publicly available on their national websites.

C. Overview of the Review Process

Opening Plenary Session

13. The Review Meeting was opened by Mr Faizan Mansoor, who had been elected at the Organizational Meeting to serve as President. The President welcomed the participants and noted that States that had signed the Convention, but had not yet adhered to it, had been invited to attend the Opening Plenary and that part of the Final Plenary where the Summary Report is adopted. Out of the six (6) such Signatory States (Algeria, Israel, Monaco, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Sudan), the Philippines and Sudan, have attended.

14. The President noted that representatives of the media had been invited to the same sessions, which would also be webcast. He also reminded the meeting that the Plenary sessions would be audio recorded and interpreted into all official languages of the Agency.
15. The Director General of the IAEA, Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, welcomed the delegates, noting that the number of Contracting Parties was growing as more countries had joined since the last Review Meeting. He emphasized that as nuclear energy expanded globally to meet energy needs, maintaining the high standards of nuclear safety was more important than ever. He stressed that, forty years after the Chornobyl accident, nuclear safety remained a fundamental and non-negotiable responsibility. He underscored the vital role of the CNS as a platform for transparency, peer review, and continuous improvement, urging Contracting Parties to engage openly and focus on safety outcomes.
16. In the context of the ongoing conflicts, he stressed that nuclear safety should not be compromised. Mr Grossi also emphasized the importance of adherence to the IAEA's "Seven Indispensable Pillars" of nuclear safety and security, aimed at preventing nuclear accidents and mitigating radiological consequences, during armed conflicts.
17. While acknowledging the existence of difficult geopolitical issues, the Director General underlined that such matters should be addressed in appropriate fora and not used to undermine the technical focus of the CNS and its peer review process.
18. Mr Grossi pointed out diverse challenges related to advanced reactor technologies, artificial intelligence, ageing nuclear power plants, natural risks, and cybersecurity, reaffirming that the IAEA continued to support Member States through standards, provision of peer reviews services, and technical assistance, while urging collective responsibility and cooperation to ensure that harnessing nuclear energy remained safe, secure, and sustainable.
19. Mr Grossi closed his remarks by asking the delegates to stay focused on the technical matters within the scope of the CNS, bearing in mind its objective of ensuring continued improvement of nuclear safety worldwide. He concluded that the CNS and its peer review mechanism were indispensable, and especially for those countries embarking on or considering nuclear power programmes.
20. Mr Mansoor thanked Mr Grossi for his opening remarks and welcomed all the participants to the Opening Plenary of the 10th Review Meeting. He highlighted that their presence reflects a shared commitment that transcends borders and differences – the commitment to upholding nuclear safety for the benefit of the present and future generations.
21. The President welcomed Egypt, El Salvador, Iraq, Liberia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe as the new Contracting Parties since the previous Review Meeting, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 98, and welcomed the participation of the Philippines and Sudan as Signatory States. He emphasized that broader participation in the Convention demonstrated the collective resolve of Member States to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide.
22. Mr Mansoor underlined that nuclear safety was a collective responsibility and stressed the value of open and constructive engagement among Contracting Parties. He highlighted that the Review Meeting provided an important opportunity not only to report on national implementation but also to reflect on strengths, identify challenges, and promote continuous improvement, while ensuring discussions remained focused, meaningful, and aligned with the objectives of the Convention.
23. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a highly technical, constructive and non-political environment throughout the Review Meeting and highlighted that the strength of

the Convention lay in its ability to foster collaboration based on expertise, transparency and mutual respect. He underscored that keeping discussions grounded in safety considerations, preserved the integrity and effectiveness of the review process and facilitate consensus-building, including on the Summary Report.

24. He concluded his speech by expressing gratitude to the IAEA Secretariat and appreciated their crucial role in organizing the Review Meeting and further availability of their assistance throughout the next two weeks. He also appreciated the efforts of CNS Country Group Officers and Vice-Presidents for their active engagement in all preparatory and organisational arrangements for the two-week meeting.
25. The President further outlined the proceedings of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) during the 10th Review Meeting, and the draft OEWG Agenda was shared with the Contracting Parties.

D. Country Group Discussions

26. During the Review Meeting, the Country Groups met on five days and discussed the National Reports submitted by the Contracting Parties in their respective Country Groups, with Contracting Parties providing answers to the supplementary questions raised during the discussion. Discussions in the Country Groups generally proceeded well, with a lively and frank exchange of views. Some discussions benefitted from the presence of Contracting Parties that were not members of those particular Country Groups. The members of each Country Group identified a number of Challenges, Suggestions, Good Practices and Areas of Good Performance to be shared with all Contracting Parties. As a general observation, Contracting Parties successfully followed the shorter session times decided at the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting. Overall, the time schedule was managed effectively by the Officers, and the Country Group sessions generally finished on time.

Conduct of Country Group Discussions

27. Most Contracting Parties that gave a presentation in their respective Country Group received oral questions. Following the discussion, the Country Groups finalized and agreed by consensus each Country Review Report.
28. One Contracting Party informed other Contracting Parties that it could only partially fulfil its obligations under the Convention with respect to ensuring nuclear safety due to the loss of control of one of its nuclear installations ¹ as a result of armed conflict.
29. The General Committee (President, two Vice-Presidents, Chairs of Country Groups) met to discuss the previous day's experiences, including issues raised in Country Groups, Good Practices awarded and any procedural matters.
30. The checklists intended to facilitate consistency in identification of Good Practices and Areas of Good Performance were introduced during the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting. Despite this, Contracting Parties noted different evaluation methods and outcomes among Country Groups during the 10th Review Meeting. This indicates that challenges remain and that further efforts are required to achieve consistency and balance across the Country Groups.

¹ Some Contracting Parties made disagreeing statements on the reporting on ZNPP. These statements are available in the President's Report.

31. The President of the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting had recommended that Contracting Parties report at the 10th Review Meeting on the progress made against the eight Major Common Issues that had been identified in paragraph 47 of the President's Report. The Contracting Parties with NPPs addressed these Major Common Issues in their National Reports under relevant articles of the Convention. Contracting Parties without NPPs also addressed them in their National Reports where applicable.

Identification of Good Practices, Areas of Good Performance, Challenges & Suggestions

32. The Country Groups identified a total of twenty-two (22) Good Practices. The Country Groups also identified a total of 207 Areas of Good Performance, 164 Challenges and 57 Suggestions.

Other issues

Challenges from the 10th Review Meeting

33. A relatively high number of Contracting Parties only partially met all the obligations under the CNS peer review process in the 10th Review Cycle. A similar issue was also noted by the Presidents of the 7th, and the Joint 8th and 9th, Review Meetings. The lack of full participation limits the effectiveness of the peer review process and reduces opportunities for mutual learning and transparency among Contracting Parties. This also creates challenges in planning and effectively managing the timetable for the Country Group sessions, which is already congested and will become even more challenging if the number of Contracting Parties increases. The Secretariat was requested to consider this aspect while preparing the timetable for the next Review Meeting.
34. Contracting Parties are highly encouraged to both attend the Review Meeting and to actively participate in the entire review cycle to demonstrate their commitment to a high level of nuclear safety. This has been identified as a key factor in ensuring the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and credibility of the peer review process. In this context, it was requested that the Secretariat continue capacity building activities ahead of the next Review Meeting, and that this matter would also be addressed during the Officers' Meetings and relevant educational activities.

Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety

35. Contracting Parties recalled that, at the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting, they reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the *Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety* and agreed that these principles should continue to guide actions under the Convention. National Reports confirmed continued alignment with these principles. This reaffirmed the shared commitment of Contracting Parties to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide.

New/Advanced Technologies

36. Contracting Parties discussed the regulation of new reactor technologies, in the context of rapid development of nuclear applications and technologies. Development of regulatory frameworks and competency management to support novel technologies was recognized as a topic of interest.

Response to the extraordinary circumstances/ armed conflicts

37. Some Contracting Parties reported that they had undertaken additional actions in relation to emergency preparedness considering the impact of a possible radiological release as a result of armed conflict. A number of Contracting Parties recognized the challenge of maintaining safety of nuclear installations and associated safety related infrastructure in the context of armed conflict. At the same time, some Contracting Parties were voluntarily providing assistance and aid in maintaining the safety of nuclear installations affected by the armed conflict.

E. Major Common Issues

Major Common Issues Arising from Country Groups

38. A number of common issues emerged from the Country Group discussions that were presented for discussion in the Final Plenary. These common issues are summarised below together with some of the elements that were considered in the discussions. The President recommended that Contracting Parties take these issues, where applicable, into account when preparing their National Report for the 11th Review Meeting, by describing their current national situation.

Human resources, knowledge management, competence management and generational change

39. Contracting Parties identified challenges related to the sustainability of human resources within regulatory bodies, nuclear industry including the ageing workforce, the transfer of expertise and competence to the next generation, and the need to attract new and retain qualified staff. Contracting Parties also highlighted that stable funding of the regulatory body was essential to face such challenges, but also to ensure regulatory independence and to support long-term planning to maintain effective oversight capabilities.

Extreme weather and changing environmental conditions

40. The impact of increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions on nuclear safety was identified as a common issue. More specifically, Contracting Parties noted the need to consider these changing environmental conditions, in safety assessments, regulatory decision-making, and long-term planning for both existing and new nuclear installations.

Impact of artificial intelligence in activities related to Nuclear Safety

41. Contracting Parties noted the increasing interest in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced digital technologies in activities related to nuclear safety. Regulatory approaches to the use of AI in applications related to nuclear safety are still evolving in many Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties expressed that, while such technologies might offer potential benefits, they also posed challenges, including issues related to transparency, validation and verification, data quality and human-machine interaction. It is important to ensure that the prime responsibility for nuclear safety remains with operating organizations, with human oversight and competence essential for adequate validation and verification.

Emergency preparedness under extraordinary circumstances

42. Contracting Parties emphasized the need for improvement of emergency preparedness and response arrangements, including effective coordination with national stakeholders and

effective public communication to maintain public confidence. Attention was drawn to cross-border impact and monitoring of radiological consequences related to extraordinary circumstances, such as natural disasters and armed conflicts. Contracting Parties also stressed the importance of clear, transparent, and timely international communication.

Securing reliable supply chains

43. Reliable supply chains are a prerequisite for the safety of nuclear installations across the nuclear life cycle. Demands placed on the supply chains are changing. Securing new/alternative suppliers represents a challenge for the nuclear sector. Concerns were raised regarding disruptions in international procurement practices and the availability of specialized services and expertise, with potential impacts on maintenance, modernization, and long-term operation.

F. Topical Session

44. The Contracting Parties at the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting had decided that future Review Meetings should continue to have one or two topical sessions open to all Contracting Parties organized so as not to interfere with the Country Group sessions and directly linked with the objectives of the Convention.
45. The 10th Organizational Meeting of the Contracting Parties had decided to recommend “*Strengthening national regulatory capabilities, taking into account new and innovative technologies and effective nuclear knowledge management*”, as the Topical Session for the 10th Review Meeting.
46. The Topical Session was held during the second week of the Review Meeting. It was opened, moderated and closed by Vice-President Mr Naoto Ichii. Presentations were made by representatives from three Contracting Parties, namely, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and China and were followed by a plenary discussion. A more detailed summary of the session can be found in the President’s Report.

G. Proposals to improve the processes of the Convention

47. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) was established at the Opening Plenary session and was chaired by Vice-President Mr Per Strand. Ten proposals were submitted by the Contracting Parties, nine of which were discussed during the OEWG, and one proposal was withdrawn as an action on it had been taken.
48. Mr Strand welcomed the participants and indicated his expectation of open and constructive discussions, with a focus on strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of work carried out under the terms of the CNS, ultimately aiming at strengthening nuclear safety worldwide. The OEWG meetings were well attended and comprised presentation and discussion of the proposals, leading to agreement of the wording of recommendations.
49. The withdrawn proposal was briefed to the participants for their information. The proposal was related to an inconsistency between the version of the Convention in French and in other official languages. In accordance with the established depositary practice, a Note Verbale was issued on 7 April 2026, entitled ‘Proposal of Corrections to the Original Text of the Convention (French version) and INFCIRC/449 (French version)’, containing proposed corrections to the authentic French text of Article 2, paragraph (i), of the Convention’.

50. The Chair's report was approved by Contracting Parties during the Final Plenary. This Report, including the approved proposals, has been attached as an annex to the President's Report.
51. The Contracting Parties decided the following:
52. To adopt the Terms of Reference of the Working Group established² to undertake a coordinated editorial review of INFCIRC/571, INFCIRC/572 and INFCIRC/573, through a one-month silence procedure;
- a) The Presidency of the Tenth Review Meeting to conduct a survey on the effectiveness of the CNS processes, with the focus on the changes implemented during the 10th Review Cycle;
 - b) To define the establishment and working methods of the OEWG in INFCIRC/571/Rev.9 and INFCIRC/573/Rev. 8;
 - c) In the context of rapid development of nuclear reactor applications and technologies, there is a need for a thoughtful discussion of the types of nuclear reactors that should be taken into account under the definition of nuclear installation in the context of the CNS. The Presidency to consider in the Agenda of the Organizational Meeting an opportunity to discuss how this topic can be addressed during the 11th Review Cycle;
 - d) Explanatory text be added to the data collection form on the CNS website.
53. The Contracting Parties agreed that the 11th Review Meeting would be held from 9 to 20 April 2029.

Mr. Faizan Mansoor
President
10th Review Meeting
of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention on Nuclear Safety

² Contracting Parties agreed to the establishment of the Working Group at the 3rd Extraordinary Meeting.