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Update for the International Atomic Energy Agency

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held its 60th General Conference between 26 and 30 September 2016 in Vienna.¹ While celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Agency, the agenda included important questions concerning nuclear security, technical cooperation, and IAEA safeguards in the Middle East.² On the first day, the plenary session considered and approved applications for IAEA membership submitted by Saint Lucia, the Islamic Republic of Gambia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.³

During the General Conference, a panel discussion concerning technical cooperation in Africa emphasized the importance of cooperation to enhance regional infrastructure and expertise.⁴ Nuclear technology can be used to tackle issues like malnutrition, cancer, and water insecurity, and furthermore has important applications for industrial development.⁵ The General Conference also adopted a resolution on the “Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities,” which emphasizes the importance of the Technical Cooperation (TC) programme and the variety of its applications, and therefore calls for a continued emphasis on TC.⁶ Several countries also signed a Country Programme Framework (CPF), used for the planning of TC programmes with different countries and identification of priority areas where cooperation resources will be used.⁷ Furthermore, the General Conference adopted resolutions on “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety” and on “Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of Agency Safeguards.”⁸ Both resolutions mainly focus on the continuation of the current international processes, while emphasizing the importance of national programs with the IAEA working as a facilitator.⁹

In December, the IAEA hosted an expert meeting to discuss combatting the New World Screwworm in Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁰ The fight against this pest is mainly focused on the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), which has successfully been used since the 1970s.¹¹ The same technological process is also used in the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC).¹² The last PATTEC meeting held in December was attended by the IAEA, and the Agency will continue its support of the campaign.¹³

The IAEA also hosted the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions, from 5 to 9 December 2016.¹⁴ The conference was attended by over 2000 participants from 129 Member States and focused on improving nuclear security at the national, regional and global levels.¹⁵ The adopted Ministerial Declaration emphasizes the common goals of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the importance of nuclear security.¹⁶ It also recognizes the challenge of keeping pace with the evolving challenges of nuclear security and commits to continued efforts towards improving nuclear security worldwide.¹⁷

¹ IAEA, *60th General Conference*, 2016.

² IAEA, *Provisional Agenda (GC(60)/I)*, 2016.

³ Dixit, *General Conference Day 1 Highlights*, 2016.

⁴ Gil, *Technical Cooperation in Africa: What Works and How to Improve*, 2016.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ IAEA, *Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities (GC(60)/RES/11)*, 2016.

⁷ IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication, *China Signs a Country Programme Framework (CPF) for 2016-2021*, 2016; IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication, *Oman Signs its Second Country Programme Framework (CPF) for 2018-2023*, 2016.

⁸ IAEA, *Strengthening the Effectiveness and Improving the Efficiency of Agency Safeguards (GC(60)/RES/13)*, 2016; IAEA, *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (GC(60)/RES/9)*, 2016.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ IAEA *Hosts Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Experts on Fight Against Screwworm Pest*, IAEA, 2016.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Krickl, *IAEA Attends 15th PATTEC Meeting in Addis Ababa*, 2016.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Dixit, *Continue to Effectively Strengthen Global Nuclear Security*, 2016.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ IAEA, *International Conference on Nuclear Security, Ministerial Declaration*, 2016.

¹⁷ Ibid.

At the 71st regular session of the General the IAEA Director General delivered a statement on the importance of the IAEA's work towards several aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as health and sustainable energy.¹⁸ He further emphasized that technical cooperation for nuclear technology will be an important means to achieve the SDGs.¹⁹

The process towards worldwide nuclear safety will be ongoing in 2017.²⁰ The IAEA will host conferences on issues including applications of radiation science and technology, insect pest management, technical cooperation and safety on nuclear power plants, which proves that the issues discussed during the past year will remain relevant throughout 2017.²¹ In March the seventh Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Convention on Nuclear Safety will be held in Vienna, to continue the progress of improving safety standards in all Member States.²² Also in March, the Board of Governors will meet for the first time in 2017.²³ The IAEA will host the first *International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme* at the end of May 2017, continuing the important work on the TC programme.²⁴

Annotated Bibliography

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *60th General Conference* [Website]. Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/about/policy/gc/gc60>

This website is the main page for all information concerning the 60th session of the IAEA General Conference. Delegates can find all relevant reports as well as all adopted resolutions in the documents and resolution sections. Carefully reviewing these documents will allow delegates to remain up-to-date on all of the developments that happened at the IAEA at the last General Conference. The articles published by the IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication are an additional source to quickly get a good overview about the progress made on these topics in recent weeks.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, December 12). *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly*. Retrieved 25 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/statement-to-the-71st-regular-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly>

In his statement to the General Assembly, the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano talked about the achievements of the past year. He elaborated on the importance of the IAEA's work towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, he elaborated on the importance of technical cooperation and the opportunities and dangers of nuclear energy. The speech is a good overview of the work of the IAEA in the last year and shows delegates the current focus of the Agency.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (GC(60)/RES/9)*. Retrieved 6 January 2017 from: https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60Resolutions/English/gc60res-9_en.pdf

This resolution adopted by the General Conference is the most recent resolution on international cooperation and nuclear safety. The IAEA adopts an annual resolution on this question, and this one includes the most recent changes concerning this issue. The resolution emphasizes the importance of coordinating international cooperation towards safety, especially with the steadily increasing number of Member States utilizing nuclear technology. It emphasizes that it is necessary for all Member States to implement the rules established by the IAEA Safety Standards and to increase international cooperation to ensure worldwide nuclear safety. The IAEA needs to assist Member States in this process and provide guidance where needed. The resolution also calls

¹⁸ IAEA, *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2016.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ivanova, *Looking Ahead: Important 2017 Events at the IAEA*, 2017.

²¹ Ibid.

²² IAEA, *Convention on Nuclear Safety*, 2017.

²³ Ivanova, *Looking Ahead: Important 2017 Events at the IAEA*, 2017.

²⁴ IAEA, *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2016.



for regular self-assessment of countries' nuclear safety standards. Understanding the concepts within this resolution will allow delegates to apply them during the conference.

Ivanova, N. (2017, January 3). Looking Ahead: Important 2017 Events at the IAEA [News Article]. *IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication*. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/looking-ahead-important-2017-events-at-the-iaea>

The outlook on the year 2017 released by the IAEA Office on Public Information and Communication is another source to get an understanding of the current areas of focus for the IAEA. The question of nuclear safety will remain important during the year, but the aspects of technical cooperation and further use of Sterile Insect Technique will be especially important for the IAEA in 2017. Looking at the most important upcoming meetings allows delegates to understand the Agency's points of focus, and to have them in mind for their work at the conference. Furthermore, knowing about these meetings allows delegates to schedule discussions to these already existing meetings instead of creating new ones.

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I. Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East

Recent Developments

As of February 2017, the Middle East is still suffering from high levels of instability and violence.²⁵ As a result, large portions of the population in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya remain in crucial need of humanitarian assistance.²⁶ According to Security Council resolution 2330 adopted in December 2016, no improvement can be expected without the attainment of a comprehensive settlement addressing all aspects of the Middle East problem, including nuclear safeguards.²⁷

Despite the insecurity, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has continued to work extensively on the issue of applying safeguards in the Middle East.²⁸ On 26 September 2016, the General Conference of the Agency adopted a resolution on the “Application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East,” reaffirming the importance for all states in the region to adhere to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT).²⁹ Additionally, the resolution reiterates the call for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) in the Middle East.³⁰

Concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Director General of IAEA expressed satisfaction with the engagement of Iran to fulfill its obligations under the nuclear deal.³¹ Furthermore, during his address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 12 December 2016, the Director General stated that the IAEA would continue to verify and monitor Iran’s behavior on its nuclear-related commitments for many years to come.³² As of January 2017, Iran has carried out its actions within the timeframe specified under the JCPOA.³³

On 8 November 2016, the General Assembly First Committee, a central actor on nuclear security, submitted a report on the “Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.”³⁴ While reaffirming the inalienable right of all Member States to obtain and develop nuclear energy for non-military objectives, it called upon all parties involved to consider taking substantial action towards the establishment of a NWFZ.³⁵ Furthermore, the report asks for full collaboration and transparency of all Member States in the area towards the IAEA regarding the implementation and monitoring of nuclear safeguards.³⁶ A second report by the General Assembly First Committee was submitted the same day addressing “The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East.”³⁷ Recalling the conclusions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, the report called for the full implementation of that resolution and once again stated the urgent need for Israel to join the NPT.³⁸ Both reports received support on 9 December 2016 and 16 December 2016 respectively by the adoption of two General Assembly resolutions replicating the recommendations of the GA First Committee on these issues.³⁹

²⁵ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (UNDOF) (S/RES/2330)*, 2016, p. 1.

²⁶ Ibid.; UNHCR, *Global Appeal – 2017 Update*, 2017, pp. 76-77.

²⁷ UN Security Council, *The situation in the Middle East (UNDOF) (S/RES/2330)*, 2016, p. 1.

²⁸ Dixit, *IAEA Director General Outlines 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

²⁹ IAEA, *Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East (GC(60)/RES/15)*, 2016, p. 2.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ *IAEA satisfied by Iran commitment to nuclear deal: Amano*, Press TV, 2016; IAEA, *IAEA Statement on Director General's Visit to Iran*, 2016.

³² Dixit, *Nuclear Science and Technology Assist Sustainable Development, IAEA Director General Tells United Nations General Assembly*, 2016.

³³ IAEA, *Statement by IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano on Iran*, 2017.

³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/71/446)*, 2016.

³⁵ Ibid., p. 3.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 4.

³⁷ UN General Assembly, *The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (A/71/453)*, 2016.

³⁸ Ibid., p. 7.

³⁹ UN General Assembly, *Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/RES/71/29)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (A/RES/71/83)*, 2016.

On 15 December 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2325 on “Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.”⁴⁰ Focusing on the 1540 Committee established in resolution 1540 of 2004, the Security Council once again encouraged all states to take the necessary actions towards the full implementation of the 1540 resolution.⁴¹ Aimed at preventing the further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by creating opportunities of collaboration between Member States and the United Nations, the 1540 Committee acts as an essential tool to ensure peace and security around the globe.⁴²

Going beyond the spectrum of the United Nations, several other entities were recently active on the issue, such as the International Security Studies Forum (ISSF).⁴³ In November 2016, the ISSF published a collection of essays gathered after a policy roundtable of experts addressing, inter alia, the effectiveness of IAEA safeguards.⁴⁴ Looking ahead, the International Atomic Energy Agency will continue to be active on all areas related to the application of safeguards in the region of the Middle East.⁴⁵

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https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60Resolutions/English/gc60res-15_en.pdf

This resolution, adopted by the IAEA General Conference during its sixtieth and most recent session, deals specifically with the application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East. The resolution calls upon, requests and urges states in the region to take action in regards to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, nuclear disarmament, and previous non-proliferation conventions. Delegates will use this document to obtain a better understanding of the current mindset and priorities of the Agency on the issue of establishing a NWFZ in the Middle East.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East (A/RES/71/29)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/71/446). Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/29>

This General Assembly resolution adopted during the seventy-first and most recent session of the body, focuses specifically on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Once again, the body reiterated the importance of the implementation of such a zone for international peace and security. Countries are asked to take the necessary steps towards its creation. This resolution also calls for the adherence of all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, a pre-requisite for the success of the NWFZ. Delegates will read this resolution to comprehend the current view of the United Nations on this issue of high relevance for the stability in the region and around the world.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (A/RES/71/83)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/71/453). Retrieved 3 January 2017 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/83>

This General Assembly resolution addresses the risks related to the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East. The resolution reiterates the significance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the conclusions on the Middle East of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty. The isolation of Israel in regards to nuclear cooperation is also discussed. Delegates can consult this resolution to review past achievements of the United Nations on the current issue, and to realize their continuing importance to this day.

⁴⁰ UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (S/RES/2325)*, 2016.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (S/RES/2325)*, 2016.

⁴³ International Security Studies Forum, *About*, 2017.

⁴⁴ International Security Studies Forum, *Policy Roundtable 1-3 on the International Atomic Energy Agency Statute at Sixty*, 2016.

⁴⁵ IAEA, *Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East (GC(60)/RES/15)*, 2016.



United Nations, Security Council, 7837th Meeting. (2016). *Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (S/RES/2325(2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 4 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2325\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2325(2016))
This Security Council resolution adopted in December 2016 details the most recent position of the body on the issue of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. As a frontline entity in the establishment and maintenance of peace in the Middle East, the Security Council uses Resolution 1540 and its related 1540 Committee to prevent further proliferation by increasing cooperation and transparency between Member States and the United Nations. Delegates will study this resolution to understand the key role of the Security Council on the issue.

United Nations, Security Council, 7843rd Meeting. (2016). *The situation in the Middle East (UNDOF) (S/RES/2330(2016))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 2 January 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2330\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2330(2016))
This Security Council resolution adopted in December 2016 is the most recent document detailing the situation in the Middle East from a security perspective. Bearing in mind that the instability in the region directly affects the capacity of the International Atomic Energy Agency to fulfill its monitoring and verification mandate on the ground, delegates will use this resolution as a way of understanding the difficulties the IAEA faces in the region. Delegates should take these difficulties into consideration when drafting resolutions on this topic.

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II. Improving Science and Technology Activities through Technical Cooperation

Recent Developments

Near the end of 2016, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made concrete steps to improve its own technical cooperation activities within the fields of science and technology, which included steps to strengthen awareness of the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), enhance capacity building techniques, and increase the amount of available financial resources.⁴⁶ As part of this ambition, the IAEA has also actively sought to tie its Technical Cooperation Programme to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by assisting states in the areas of poverty and hunger, human health, energy, climate change, and protection of the oceans.⁴⁷ This has been evidenced by a series of conferences, events, and trends within the IAEA and UN System.⁴⁸ As part of the 60th General Conference, IAEA hosted a Scientific Forum where experts from across the globe presented their findings on critical issues related to nuclear energy and sustainable development.⁴⁹ During the conference, experts discussed how to help better tie nuclear energy into the SDGs within five themes: radiation for medicine, atoms for food, nuclear power, isotopes for the environment, and partnerships for nuclear science.⁵⁰ In addition, the IAEA hosted the 2016 International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases in October, which focused heavily on how nuclear technology, particularly advanced imaging technologies, can be used to detect, prevent, and treat non-communicable diseases.⁵¹ The objectives of the conference were to examine the current status of research, to exchange knowledge and experiences, and to plan future cooperation and approaches.⁵²

In November of 2017, the Director General of IAEA presented the proposed work for the 2016-2017 Technical Cooperation Programme to the IAEA Board of Governors.⁵³ He emphasized the benefits of technical cooperation through showcasing the IAEA's progress in Member States, such as assisting the Tissue Bank of the Peruvian National Children's Health Institute to help treat burn victims.⁵⁴ Moreover, the Director General emphasized that the technical cooperation program within the 2018-2019 framework will harmonize its work to help accomplish the SDGs.⁵⁵ The IAEA aims to increase the peaceful uses of nuclear technology within least developed countries, with particular emphasis on human health and agriculture, which encompass SDGs 2 and 3 respectively.⁵⁶ Lastly, the DG highlighted the Agency's partnership with the UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, consisting of a project to detect and treat cervical cancer in Morocco.⁵⁷ This type of cooperation sets a strong precedent for how the IAEA is able to work between different UN Agencies to address the SDGs and sustainable development in general.⁵⁸

The 2017 International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme will be held from 30 May 2017 through 1 June 2017.⁵⁹ The conference will comprehensively cover each thematic area of technical cooperation, with a significant focus on food security and health, as well as opportunities for regional cooperation.⁶⁰ This conference is particularly important in setting the tone and agenda for many years to come in regards to how the TCP is carried out and will advance the ambitions in pursuit of the SDGs.⁶¹ In continuing the theme of regional cooperation, the Director General has signaled that new frameworks are currently being developed to further strengthen regional

⁴⁶ IAEA, *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

⁴⁷ IAEA, *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly*, 2016.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ IAEA, *2016 IAEA Scientific Forum*, 2016.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ IAEA, *IAEA International Conference on Integrated Medical Imaging in Cardiovascular Diseases*, 2016.

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ IAEA, *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ IAEA, *Prompt Detection and Treatment: New United Nations Joint Global Programme to Prevent Cervical Cancer*, 2016; IAEA, *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

⁵⁸ WHO, *UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control*, 2016.

⁵⁹ IAEA, *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

⁶⁰ IAEA, *International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond – Contributing to Development*, 2016.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

approaches towards the peaceful usage of nuclear technology.⁶² One example is the expected signature of the Practical Arrangement between the IAEA and the Commission of the African Union to improve cooperation in the areas of human health, nutrition, and food and agriculture, through the creation of frameworks to preserve and enhance education on nuclear science and technology, as well as building capacity towards sustainable development.⁶³

Leading into 2017, the IAEA continues to make progress in enhancing science and technology for agriculture, health, and medicine, as well as finding new and innovative roles for nuclear technology. However, the international system still faces a number of challenges in technical cooperation, such as the overwhelming demand for assistance and limited resources to spare. Moving forward, delegates will have numerous opportunities to define the ways that technical cooperation for nuclear science and technology can impact key components of sustainable development and innovation towards a peaceful future of nuclear energy and technologies.

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International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *2016 IAEA Scientific Forum*. [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/about/policy/gc/gc60/scientific-forum/programme>

The following provides an overview of the programme of work within the Scientific Forum, held during the 2016 IAEA General Conference. This forum is an excellent starting point for delegates to understand how IAEA is organizing its work around the SDGs. Furthermore, it can help breakdown ideas on how nuclear science and technology can be related to the SDGs directly, as well as how Member States can cooperate in their application. Delegates should review the outcomes from the Scientific Forum for successful examples of how technical cooperation can contribute to peaceful and productive uses of nuclear energy.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *International Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond – Contributing to Development*. [Website]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/PDFplus/2017/cn257/cn257Announcement.pdf>

This conference is the first of its kind and will help steer the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme towards a path more harmonized with the SDGs. The following agenda will help delegates understand the background to its inception, as well as the main goals and priorities. Most importantly, this unprecedented conference will set the standards for how IAEA technical cooperation will be carried out for years to come. The agenda provides delegates with a clear picture of the global vision for the Technical Cooperation Programme and how IAEA can more directly target progress on the SDGs.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, November 17). *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-director-general-outlines-2017-technical-cooperation-programme-at-board-of-governors-meeting>

This statement by the Director-General provides a concise overview of the current state of work with the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. It covers the area of work in the thematic themes in which technical cooperation takes place. Moreover, it concisely presents and condenses numerous talking points and issues into brief statements, making it a favorable starting resource for the topic. Overall, it helps delegates in their research with informative facts and easy-to-understand examples on the current state of the Technical Cooperation Program, how resources are allocated, and what funding gaps exist.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, December 12). *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/statement-to-the-71st-regular-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly>

⁶² IAEA, *IAEA Director General Outline 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting*, 2016.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

The Director General's statement to the General Assembly is a crucial source as it outlines what the IAEA is doing in the context and in cooperation with the rest of the UN System. This resource provides copious amounts of details about ongoing plans and activities related to the Technical Cooperation Programme. It also includes information about future events and initiatives that may not yet be readily available. Since the IAEA cooperates in a wide variety of areas, this statement can best serve delegates as a guide to where the IAEA is working and what upcoming initiatives it intends to be a part of and which ones it will intend to be taking lead.

World Health Organization. (2016). *UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control*. [Report]. Retrieved January 30 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/un-joint-action-cervical-cancer-leaflet.pdf>

The brief introduces the UN Joint Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, an example of a successful project where technical cooperation has directly improved outcomes for scientific research. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the programme and the role that IAEA can plan in such projects, as it provides a good example for future cooperation amongst UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations.

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International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *Practical Arrangements between the IAEA and Nuclear Organizations* [Report]. Retrieved 30 January 2017 from: https://www.iaea.org/nuclearenergy/nuclearknowledge/Collaborating_Partners/Practical-Arrangements.pdf

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, September 28). *Prompt Detection and Treatment: New United Nations Joint Global Programme to Prevent Cervical Cancer* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/prompt-detection-and-treatment-new-united-nations-joint-global-programme-to-prevent-cervical-cancer>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, November 17). *Introductory Statement to the Board of Governors* [Press Release]. Retrieved 5 February 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/introductory-statement-to-the-board-of-governors-17-november-2016>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, November 17). *IAEA Director General Outlines 2017 Technical Cooperation Programme at Board of Governors Meeting* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-director-general-outlines-2017-technical-cooperation-programme-at-board-of-governors-meeting>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, December 12). *IAEA Director General's Statement to the 71st Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from:



<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/statement-to-the-71st-regular-session-of-the-united-nations-general-assembly>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, December 19). *IAEA Attends 15th PATTEC Meeting in Addis Ababa* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-attends-15th-pattec-meeting-in-addis-ababa>

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016, December 22). *IAEA at the Responsible Business Forum on Sustainable Development* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-at-the-responsible-business-forum-on-sustainable-development>

World Health Organization. (2016). *UN Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control* [Report]. Retrieved January 30 2017 from: <http://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/un-joint-action-cervical-cancer-leaflet.pdf>

III. Nuclear Waste Management

Recent Developments

The main event held at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in recent months was the 60th General Conference, where new policy measures concerning nuclear waste management were discussed and adopted.⁶⁴ The General Conference adopted resolution GC(60)/RES/9 on “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,” which urges the IAEA Secretariat to continue with cooperation and assistance provision in the field of nuclear safety through the incorporation of the safe transport, storage, and supervision of nuclear waste.⁶⁵ It also outlines waste safety as a key element to the peaceful usage of nuclear energy and the minimization of risks of nuclear material.⁶⁶

In the same session, the Director General submitted a report on “Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety,” which is primarily concerned with safety aspects in handling and processing nuclear material.⁶⁷ The report outlines and describes the activities and cooperation of the Agency, including the publication on the IAEA’s Safety Standards Programme, the Agency’s cooperation with Member States on Nuclear Installation Safety, the collaboration with the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation on Radiation Safety and Environmental Protection Standards, and the publications by the Transport Safety Standards Committee within the IAEA Safety Standard Series.⁶⁸ The issue is further clarified in the information document provided by the Director General, which relates to “Building the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.”⁶⁹ The document concludes that explicit priorities within the thematic area of nuclear radiation, transport, and waste safety should be outlined and yearly reports should be submitted to the Board of Governors on the progress of nuclear safety.⁷⁰

In November 2016, the IAEA held the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in Vienna, where over 60 Member States evaluated the progress and changes in terms of waste processing, storage, the disposal of low, intermediate, and high-level waste, disposal of unused radioactive sources, and post-accident waste management.⁷¹ The harmonization of safety in nuclear waste and pre-disposal management of waste was one of the main topics of the conference, which serves as a platform to advance information exchange among participants and Member States.⁷² The conclusions from the final session laid out the current status and improvement suggestions concerning the progress since 2000 including national planning, optimization, results of analyses and communication of long term protective capability of disposal solutions, regulators’ involvement, mandate, and independence, involvement and empowerment of interested parties, and post-accident waste management.⁷³ Finally, Member States concluded that this conference should be held more frequently than in 16-year intervals and that the optimization and integration of all areas of waste management, the involvement of waste generators, and the management of naturally occurring radioactive materials should be carefully scrutinized.⁷⁴

Another approach towards the decommissioning of nuclear energy was launched by the IAEA during the International Conference on Advancing the Global Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental

⁶⁴ IAEA, *IAEA General Conference*, 2016.

⁶⁵ IAEA, *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (GC(60)/RES/9)*, 2016.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ IAEA General Conference, *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (GC(60)/4)*, 2016.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ IAEA General Conference, *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety: Building on the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety (GC(60)/INF/11)*, 2016, p. 6.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ IAEA, Office of Public Information and Communication, *Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: IAEA Conference Addresses Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions*, 2016.

⁷² IAEA, Office of Public Information and Communication, *Abstracts Due 15 April: IAEA Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*, 2016.

⁷³ IAEA, *Conclusions from the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*, 2016.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

Remediation Programmes in May 2016, where ethical aspects of decommissioning and the deconstruction of old facilities and production sites was discussed.⁷⁵ The ethical aspects of this discussion mainly pertain to the process of finding a solution to the storage of nuclear waste that has accumulated and that should not be left to future generations to deal with, according to Conference president, Juan José Zaballa.⁷⁶ The conference highlighted the progress since the decommissioning conferences in 2006 and 2009, such as in the area of installing decommissioning programs, the initiation of legal frameworks, and responsibility assignments in several Member States, whereby the IAEA has provided support in form of financial means, technology equipment, and access to waste management routes.⁷⁷ However, the conference also shed light on the omission in decommission efforts as many shut-down nuclear power plants and smaller facilities still await deconstruction in an adequate, safe, and sustainable manner, while other contaminated sites remain untouched due to lack of responsibility-taking, access to financing, technologies, and knowledge.⁷⁸

Recent developments show that awareness concerning the topic exists within the international community and that efforts are made to tackle the issue. However, it can also be seen that progress is only slowly happening, and that a suitable solution to deal with nuclear waste requires cooperation and collaboration on many fronts.

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International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *Conclusions from the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*. Retrieved 9 January 2017 from:

https://gnssn.iaea.org/meetings/wasteconference2016/Shared%20Documents/CN-242_Conclusions.pdf

The report is the concluding document of the conference and consists of brief summaries of the main discussed areas and the suggestions for improvement. The publication gives delegates a good overview of the most important areas of radioactive waste management, whereby concise and updated information on the status and suggested actions are available. The evaluated areas consist of cooperation, national developments, analysis, and crisis management.

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2016). *International Conference on Advancing the Global Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Programmes: Report by the Conference President, Mr J.J. Zaballa*. Retrieved 9 January 2017 from:

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/PDFplus/2016/cn238/cn238Report.pdf>

The report by the president of the International Conference on Advancing the Global Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Programmes is a good resource to gain knowledge about issues concerning nuclear waste management. The report deals with ethical dimensions of nuclear waste management and with different sub-areas of the responsibility to find a solution to nuclear waste management instead of leaving it to future generations. The report delivers some good insights into decommissioning and environmental aspects of nuclear waste and provides delegates with an additional perspective on the topic.

International Atomic Energy Agency, General Conference. (2016). *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety (GC(60)/RES/9)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from:

https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60Resolutions/English/gc60res-9_en.pdf

The resolution is a follow up resolution by the General Conference of the IAEA that reiterates the importance of cooperating in the field of nuclear radiation, transport, and waste safety. The resolution refers to earlier agreements that are important for delegates to take note of, while providing a good overview on the status of international cooperation and collaboration concerning nuclear safety. The resolution covers several areas of cooperation and interest concerning nuclear material and production of which nuclear waste is also a crucial area and interlinked with many other areas of nuclear safety.

⁷⁵ IAEA, *IAEA Conference Launches 'Ethical' Appeal on Decommissioning, Environmental Remediation*, 2016.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ IAEA, *International Conference on Advancing the Global Implementation of Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Programmes: Report by the Conference President, Mr J.J. Zaballa*, 2016, p. 2.

⁷⁸ Ibid.



International Atomic Energy Agency, General Conference and Board of Governors. (2016). *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety: Report by the Director General (GC(60)/INF/11)* [Report]. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from:

https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60Documents/English/gc60-4_en.pdf

The report by the IAEA Director-General covers all the topics that were delivered to the Members of the General Conference and the Board of Governors during the 2016 IAEA General Conference. The report is a good source to get more in-depth knowledge on the area of nuclear waste management and related topics. Furthermore, this report presents a good insight into the Agency's activities and cooperation in the field and the action undertaken over the last year.

IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication. (2016, December 16). *Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: IAEA Conference Addresses Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions*. Retrieved 9 January 2017 from: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/managing-radioactive-waste-safely-iaea-conference-addresses-challenges-opportunities-and-solutions>

The article reports from the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in Vienna in November 2016 and provides interesting facts about the international cooperation under IAEA leadership on nuclear waste. The article is a good source to get an update on progress and omission on the international communities' attempts to find a solution to nuclear waste. It also points towards some of the most pressing issues with nuclear waste, including its storage and disposal.

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https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60InfDocuments/English/gc60inf-11_en.pdf



International Atomic Energy Agency, General Conference and Board of Governors. (2016). *Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety: Report by the Director General (GC(60)/4)* [Report]. Retrieved 10 January 2017 from:

https://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC60/GC60Documents/English/gc60-4_en.pdf

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