



International Atomic Energy Agency

**The Open-ended Meeting on
Effective Application of the
Code of Conduct on the
Safety of Research Reactors**

L. W. Deitrich

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Resolution of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety:

- **“Having taken into consideration the positive impact of the incentive nature and the benefits of the Review Process of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety request the Director General of the IAEA to convene meetings to which all Member States would be invited. The objective of the meetings should be to discuss how to best assure the effective application of the ‘Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors’.”**

Summary of the Open-ended Meeting

- **The meeting took place in Vienna, 14-16 December 2005.**
- **All Member States were invited; 51 representatives of 31 Member States attended.**
- **The principal purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for all interested Member States to participate in a discussion of means to assure effective application of the Code of Conduct.**

Summary of the Open-ended Meeting

- **Presentations at the meeting included:**
 - Introduction and background;
 - A summary of the history of the Code and its content, and of the relevant IAEA safety documents;
 - Presentations of experience in applying the Code;
 - Various international legal instruments, including Codes of Conduct, along with possibilities for commitment to the Code.
 - The effectiveness of the reporting and peer review mechanism of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention.

Introduction and Background

- **The Agency's vision for enhancing research reactor safety:**
 - **Establish IAEA safety documents as the foundation for a global safety regime;**
 - **Encourage and assist Member States in effective application of the guidance in the documents;**
 - **Foster global and regional cooperation in research reactor safety.**
- **The Code of Conduct is central to achieving this vision.**
- **27 Contracting Parties reported on RRs in their national reports to the CNS review meeting.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **National commitments would make a valuable contribution in increasing general awareness of the Code and transparency in its application worldwide; however, commitment is first and foremost expressed through participation at meetings for information exchange and experience in application, rather than through a unilateral undertaking.**
- **Several arrangements for information exchange were discussed, all with a peer review mechanism.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **Broadly-based information exchange should be part of any future actions on the Code of Conduct.**
- **Periodic meetings should be organized to:**
 - **Discuss topics related to the Code;**
 - **Exchange experience and lessons learned;**
 - **Identify good practices in applying the Code;**
 - **Discuss future plans;**
 - **Discuss difficulties encountered and assistance needed to overcome these difficulties.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **Timing of the first meeting should be such that information developed for research reactors in the context of the CNS Review Meeting would still be current.**
- **The Secretariat should endeavour to schedule the meetings in connection with related meetings to facilitate maximum attendance.**
- **The basis for discussion should be topics taken from documents submitted by Member States and comments on these documents.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **Member States should have an option as to the way in which documents are submitted, such as by the RB or the OO(s).**
- **The documents should be considered informal, submitted for purposes of discussion and not as national reports in the context of the CNS or Joint Convention.**
- **There should be a graded approach in detail and complexity. The Agency should provide guidance on format and content, which should not be excessively detailed or prescriptive.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **The Secretariat should establish an Internet site on which documents, questions and comments are posted prior to the meetings to facilitate information exchange in order to gain the benefits of lessons learned to the extent possible. This will help in preparation for the meeting. Information on this site will be restricted to countries participating in the process.**

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Open-ended Meeting

- **The meetings should include discussion of application of the Code in the State, the Regulatory Body and the Operating Organization(s). Representatives who can provide input from all bodies should attend the meetings.**
- **The Code should be widely applied and used as a basis for Agency activities and assistance in enhancing safety. The Secretariat should consider updating the Project and Supply Agreements to reflect the Code.**