

# Convention on Nuclear Safety: 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting CNS Experience



Ramzi Jammal, President  
of the CNS 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting  
Workshop for Incoming and Outgoing Officers of the  
Joint Convention  
Vienna, July 18 – 20, 2017



# CNS in Brief

Workshop for Incoming and Outgoing Officers of the Joint Convention

- The status of the Joint Convention is the same as that of the Convention on Nuclear Safety
  - both are under the auspices of the IAEA, and autonomous UN agency
- Governments accede to (or ratify) the Conventions and not the regulator
- There are now 80 Contracting Parties
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting was held in March/April 2017



# CNS 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting Leadership

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President:	Ramzi Jammal (Canada)
Vice-Presidents:	Georg Schwarz (Switzerland), also Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) Geoffrey Emi-Reynolds (Ghana)
VDNS Special Advisor:	Craig Lavender (UK)
CNS Officers:	Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Rapporteurs, Coordinators



# Participation and Transparency



# Strengthening the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting

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- President declared his objectives to increase participation and transparency
- Active engagement over 18 months with Contracting Parties between the Organizational Meeting and the Review Meeting
  - regular Correspondence to all Contracting Parties
  - targeted correspondence with Contracting Parties who historically had not met their obligations
  - démarches at the diplomatic level in Ottawa and in Vienna



# Achievements

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## Increased participation

- Highest participation to date (over 900 delegates attended)
- 77 of the 80 CPs participated in the Review Meeting
- 79 of the 80 CPs submitted a National Report

## Increased transparency

- Webcasting of the opening plenary, segments of the closing plenary and the press conference
- Signatories to the Convention who have not yet ratified were invited to the opening plenary and segments of the closing plenary
- Posting of National Reports on IAEA public website within 90 days
- CPs encouraged to make their Country Review Report and Q&As public



# CNS Review Process Guidelines-INFCIRC

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- INFCIRC/571/Rev.7 set the guidelines for transparency:
  - Paragraph 41 allows for journalists to be invited to attend the opening plenary as well as the segment of the closing plenary where the final version of the Summary Report of the Review Meeting is adopted.
  - Paragraph 42 indicates that Country Review Reports, National Presentations and Rapporteurs' Reports must be made available via the secure website, which is not accessible to the public.
  - Paragraph 43 allows for all National Reports to be made publicly available within 90 days after the Review Meeting unless there is an objection from the Contracting Party.
- It is important to ensure that confidentiality is maintained to allow for a free challenge function within the CNS peer review process.



# Consensus – A Challenging Task

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- Consensus was sought from all Contracting Parties to:
  - allow signatories of the Convention who have not yet ratified to attend specific segments of the Review Meeting
  - allow the webcast of specific portions of the Review Meeting
- Consensus by the Contracting Parties was achieved by letter from the President





## Additional Transparency Developments at the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting

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- Contracting Parties were encouraged by the President to make their Qs and As available to the public
  - these are effectively an extension of the National Report and provide clarity to the public on the peer review process
- Contracting Parties were also encouraged by the President to make their Country Review Report available to the public
  - the Country Review Report summarizes the conclusions of the Country Group discussions and does not contain the content of the debate, to respect confidentiality



# Review Meeting Reports

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- Summary Report
  - available on the IAEA public website
  - details measures to improve effectiveness of the CNS and strengthen safety globally
- President's Report
  - available on the CNS secure website and was posted on the CNSC's public website
  - complements the Summary Report
  - President's Report was sent to DG Amano



# The Work Continues

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- President's outreach initiatives continue
  - congratulated previously non-compliant CPs who met their obligations and encouraged them to remain engaged
  - communicated directly with government and regulatory body of CPs that did not attend the RM or their Country Group sessions or that were represented only by the local mission
- Encourage greater global accountability and transparency for nuclear safety



## Other Initiatives Related to Transparency and Participation

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- Updated CNS brochure was published in January 2017
- Stakeholder consultation and communication was identified as a major common issue in the Summary Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting; it is to be reported on in National Reports at the next Review Meeting
  - open and transparent communication with the public can enhance trust in the regulatory body as well as in industry
- IAEA to help increase participation in future CNS RM by hosting regional workshops for countries without nuclear power plants



# Good Practice vs Areas of Good Performance



# Good Practices

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- A Good Practice is a new or revised practice, policy or program that makes a significant contribution to nuclear safety. A Good Practice has been tried and proven by at least one Contracting Party, but has not been widely implemented by other Contracting Parties; it is applicable to other Contracting Parties with similar programs.
  - Defined in INFCIRC/571/Rev.7, Guidelines Regarding the Review Process Under the Convention on Nuclear Safety
- Essentially the same as Joint Convention definition



## Good Practices - Experience at the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting

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- Officers reviewed definition of Good Practice but made no change
- The President requested that Officers:
  - apply the definition strictly (Notably “significant contribution to nuclear safety”)
  - award Good Practices within the Country Group but report on them daily to the General Committee
- Total of only four Good Practices were awarded (compared to 73 at the 6th Review Meeting)



# Area of Good Performance

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- A new finding, of Areas of Good Performance, was created and defined in the Country Review Report template as an alternative way to give positive feedback to Contracting Parties
- Allows credit to be given to Contracting Parties for improvements made that enhance nuclear safety without them having to meet the strict criteria of a Good Practice
- Adopted at the Officers' Meeting in October 2016





# Area of Good Performance - Definition

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- A practice, policy or program that is worth commending and that has been undertaken and implemented effectively. An Area of Good Performance is a significant accomplishment for Contracting Party, although it may have been implemented by other Contracting Parties



## Areas of Good Performance - Experience at the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting

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- 188 Areas of Good Performance identified
- Feedback was overwhelmingly positive
- Almost all proposed “Good Practices” (by Contracting Parties or by other peer reviewers) were re-categorized following discussions within the Country Group
- From the Summary Report:
  - “The Country Groups have been able to... recognise Areas of Good Performance in many of the national programmes which encourage Contracting Parties to develop their nuclear safety regime in a positive way.”



# Open-Ended Working Group Proposal

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- In accordance with Article 28 of the CNS, it was proposed that the IAEA should prepare a database or repository of Good Practices, Challenges and Suggestions to ensure follow-up at future Review Meetings.
  - some Contracting Parties supported this as a helpful tool
  - some Contracting Parties felt the information was already tracked in the Country Review Reports
- No consensus was achieved at the OEWG; this proposal did not move forward as an official recommendation



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# Key Improvement

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The creation of a new finding, Areas of Good Performance, and the strict application of the definition of a Good Practice helped to facilitate the review process and bring increased consistency



## Other Initiatives of Interest

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- CNS Contracting Parties who have not ratified the Joint Convention were specifically encouraged by the President to report on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste on-site in their National Reports.
- Prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting, the President requested Contracting Parties to respond to a survey on the effectiveness of CNS processes; this led to a group of Contracting Parties submitting proposals to the OEWG, several of which were adopted by consensus.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting also placed increased focus on the findings of and responses to international peer review missions hosted by the Contracting Parties, this was identified as a major common issue to be further reported on in their National Reports at the next Review Meeting.



# Conclusions

## Workshop for Incoming and Outgoing Officers of the Joint Convention

- Increased participation in the CNS review process is crucial to ensuring global nuclear safety. At the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting, we were able to increase levels of participation to levels higher than ever before.
- Increased transparency in the process will achieve increased participation and increased public understanding. Transparency in the process is still possible while maintaining confidentiality.
- The importance of recognizing work done by Contracting Parties cannot be overstated. The inclusion of Areas of Good Performance allows for this recognition while continuing to issue Good Practices to those that warrant them based on the definition.



# IAEA Assistance

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- My work as President of the 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the CNS could not have been done without the valuable support of IAEA staff including, but not limited to:
  - Miro Svab, Convention on Nuclear Safety Coordinator and Scientific Secretary for NUSSC
  - Marlene Kibein-Apolloner, Safety Convention Assistant
  - Camille Scotto De César, Safety Convention Consultant
  - Susanna Lööf, Press and Public Information Officer
  - Wolfram Tonhauser, Head, Nuclear and Treaty Law Section
  - Christelle Drillat, Legal Officer
  - Amelia Chirtes, Legal Officer



# Questions ?