



## FACT SHEETS



# IAEA Primer

## Maximizing the contribution of nuclear technology to society while verifying its peaceful use

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's foremost forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. Established by the United Nations as an independent organization in 1957<sup>1</sup>, the IAEA serves 151 Member States.

### Nuclear Technology for Development

The IAEA works to foster the role of nuclear science and technology in sustainable development. This involves both advancing and employing knowledge to tackle pressing worldwide challenges — ensuring access to food, water and energy, fighting poverty and disease, and adapting to climate change. The IAEA works to maximize the safe operation of nuclear facilities that generate power, support industry, deliver health care and serve research. The IAEA promotes the responsible management and disposal of waste, while verifying that nuclear technology is used only for peaceful purposes.

Through research and technical cooperation projects, the IAEA facilitates the transfer of nuclear technology to Member States for use in medical, agricultural, industrial, water management and other applications. This contributes to the goals of sustainable development and protection of the environment. The IAEA's laboratories provide training and conduct research.

### Nuclear Safety and Security

The future role of nuclear energy depends on a consistent, demonstrated record of safety in all applications. The IAEA's nuclear safety programme concentrates on providing standards for the safety of nuclear installations and radioactive sources, safe transport of radioactive materials and management of radioactive waste.

<sup>1</sup> The IAEA's relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. Under the terms of its Statute, the IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly and, when appropriate, to the Security Council regarding non-compliance by States with their safeguards obligations as well as on matters relating to international peace and security.

The Agency is firmly focused on helping Member States to apply nuclear science and technology to address critical development needs, while maintaining the highest safety standards.

Our work in making nuclear techniques available in areas such as health care and nutrition, food security, the environment and water resource management is extremely important for many Member States.

— IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano

Although the IAEA is not an international regulatory body, its nuclear safety efforts are directed towards creating agreed multilateral norms. These are increasingly important mechanisms for improving nuclear safety, radiation safety and waste safety around the world. IAEA safety recommendations are used by many countries as a basis for domestic standards and regulations. They include guidance for the siting, design and operation of nuclear power plants. The IAEA also performs safety evaluations on request, including on-site review of nuclear power plants by international expert teams.

The IAEA delivers training, technical assistance and equipment to States, and provides international guidance on improving nuclear security. To strengthen nuclear security, the IAEA helps countries upgrade protection for nuclear facilities, storage and transport. States also receive support in detecting and responding to illicit activities such as enhancing border control, training customs officials and fostering efficient cooperation between law enforcement officials. When a nuclear-related emergency occurs, the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre is on call to coordinate round-the-clock specialized support and assistance.



## The Threat of Nuclear Proliferation

The IAEA implements a system of safeguards agreements to help prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. Safeguards are a set of activities by which the IAEA seeks to verify that a State is living up to its international undertakings not to use nuclear programmes for nuclear weapons purposes or to produce nuclear weapons.

Most safeguards agreements are with States that have internationally committed themselves not to possess nuclear weapons through the global Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, for which the IAEA is the verification authority. To date, 178 States have entered into safeguards agreements with the IAEA, submitting their nuclear programmes to the scrutiny of IAEA inspectors.

IAEA verification helps to provide assurances about the peaceful uses of nuclear materials, facilities and activities. This, in turn, helps to allay security concerns among States with respect to the development of nuclear weapons.

IAEA verification is further strengthened through an 'Additional Protocol' to a country's safeguards agreement. Under such a Protocol, States are required to provide the IAEA with broader information on all aspects of its nuclear fuel cycle-related activities. They must also grant the IAEA wider access rights and enable it to use the most advanced verification technologies.

Safeguards activities take place routinely at more than 1100 facilities worldwide, including nuclear power plants, research reactors, fuel related facilities and storage locations.

## Policy-Making Organs

IAEA programmes and budgets are set through decisions of the policy-making bodies: The Board of Governors and the General Conference.

### *Board of Governors*

The Board of Governors generally meets five times per year. It examines and makes recommendations to the General Conference on the IAEA's accounts and programme and budget, and considers applications for membership. It also approves safeguards agreements and the publication of the IAEA's safety standards, and has responsibility for appointing the Director General with the approval of the General Conference. In case of a country's non-compliance with its safeguards commitments, the Board decides upon further steps, ranging from a call for clarification to a possible referral to the UN Security Council.

The Board of Governors has 35 members, of which 13 are designated by the Board and 22 are elected by the General Conference.

### *General Conference*

The General Conference, consisting of all Member States, meets once a year to consider, among other things, the Board of Governors report for the previous year, approve the accounts and programme and budget, and approve any applications for membership. It has the authority to request from the Board reports on any questions relating to the functions of the IAEA. During its regular annual session, the Conference conducts a general debate on the IAEA's policies and programme and examines a variety of matters brought to its attention by the Board, the Director General and individual Member States.

### *Secretariat*

With over 2300 professional and support staff, the IAEA Secretariat carries out programmes and activities approved by the Agency's policy-making organs. The Secretariat is headed by Director General Yukiya Amano who is the chief administrative officer. He is assisted by Deputy Directors General, heading six departments:

#### *Technical Cooperation*

Technology transfer and sustainable development

#### *Nuclear Energy*

Nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste management

#### *Nuclear Safety and Security*

Nuclear, radiation and waste safety, and nuclear security

#### *Nuclear Sciences and Applications*

Uses of nuclear technology in health, agriculture, industry and other fields

#### *Safeguards*

Verification of peaceful uses of nuclear energy

#### *Management*

Budget and finance, legal advice and administrative support, public information

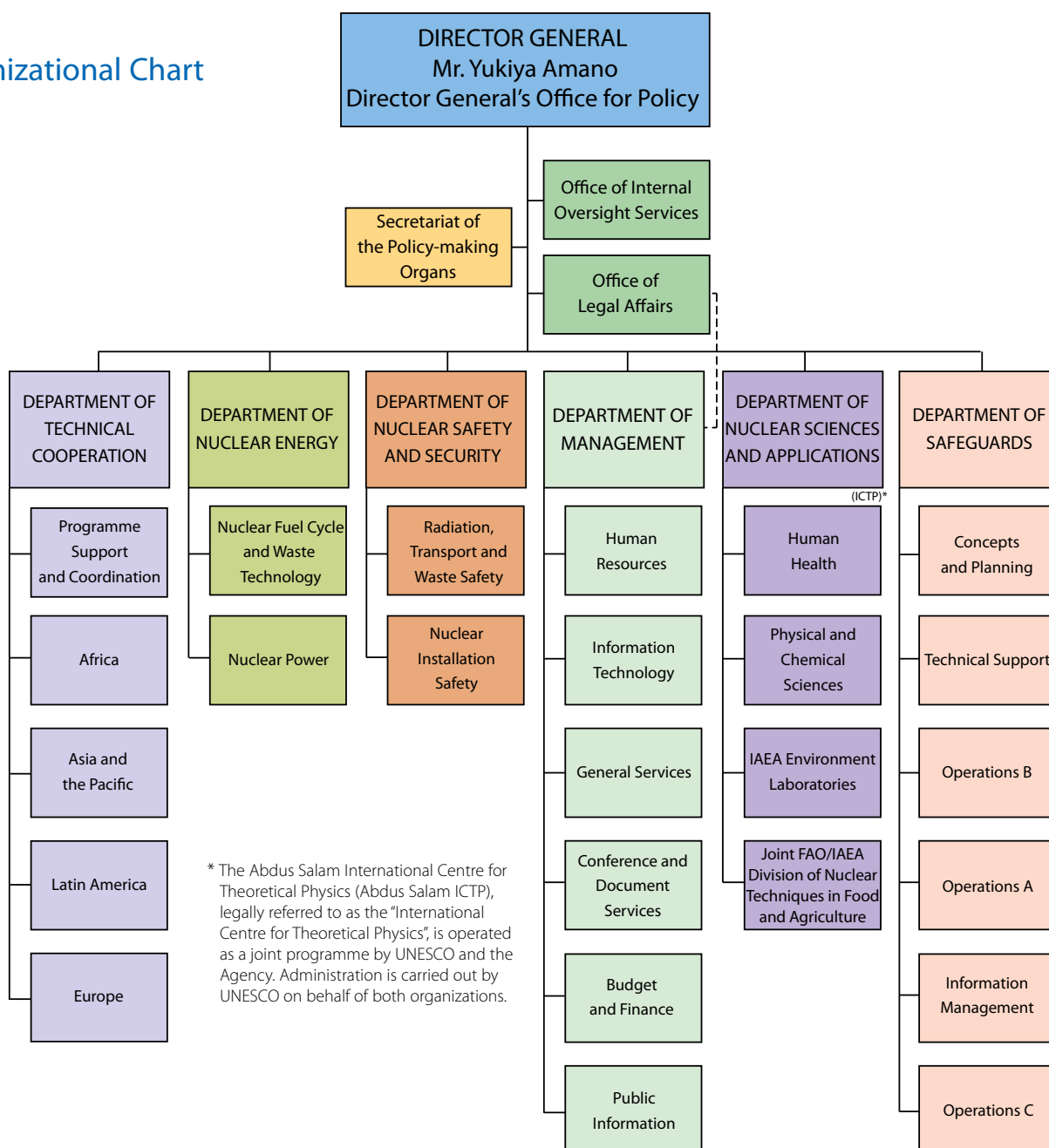


## Organization and Financial Resources

The policy-making organs of the IAEA are the Board of Governors and the General Conference. Headed by the Director General, the Secretariat is charged with the responsibility of implementing the IAEA's programme after it has been approved by the Board and the General Conference.

IAEA financial resources fall into two categories: the regular budget and voluntary contributions. The level of total resources for 2011 amounts to €323.4 million, of which €70.4 million comes from voluntary contributions, mainly from Member States.

### Organizational Chart





## Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency

AFGHANISTAN  
ALBANIA  
ALGERIA  
ANGOLA  
ARGENTINA  
ARMENIA  
AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRIA  
AZERBAIJAN  
BAHRAIN  
BANGLADESH  
BELARUS  
BELGIUM  
BELIZE  
BENIN  
BOLIVIA  
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
BOTSWANA  
BRAZIL  
BULGARIA  
BURKINA FASO  
BURUNDI  
CAMBODIA  
CAMEROON  
CANADA  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
CHAD  
CHILE  
CHINA  
COLOMBIA  
CONGO  
COSTA RICA  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE  
CROATIA  
CUBA  
CYPRUS  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF THE CONGO  
DENMARK  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
ECUADOR  
EGYPT  
EL SALVADOR  
ERITREA  
ESTONIA  
ETHIOPIA  
FINLAND  
FRANCE  
GABON  
GEORGIA

GERMANY  
GHANA  
GREECE  
GUATEMALA  
HAITI  
HOLY SEE  
HONDURAS  
HUNGARY  
ICELAND  
INDIA  
INDONESIA  
IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
IRAQ  
IRELAND  
ISRAEL  
ITALY  
JAMAICA  
JAPAN  
JORDAN  
KAZAKHSTAN  
KENYA  
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF  
KUWAIT  
KYRGYZSTAN  
LATVIA  
LEBANON  
LESOTHO  
LIBERIA  
LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
LITHUANIA  
LUXEMBOURG  
MADAGASCAR  
MALAWI  
MALAYSIA  
MALI  
MALTA  
MARSHALL ISLANDS  
MAURITANIA  
MAURITIUS  
MEXICO  
MONACO  
MONGOLIA  
MONTENEGRO  
MOROCCO  
MOZAMBIQUE  
MYANMAR  
NAMIBIA  
NEPAL  
NETHERLANDS  
NEW ZEALAND  
NICARAGUA

NIGER  
NIGERIA  
NORWAY  
OMAN  
PAKISTAN  
PALAU  
PANAMA  
PARAGUAY  
PERU  
PHILIPPINES  
POLAND  
PORTUGAL  
QATAR  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
ROMANIA  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
SAUDI ARABIA  
SENEGAL  
SERBIA  
SEYCHELLES  
SIERRA LEONE  
SINGAPORE  
SLOVAKIA  
SLOVENIA  
SOUTH AFRICA  
SPAIN  
SRI LANKA  
SUDAN  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND  
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
TAJIKISTAN  
THAILAND  
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV  
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA  
TUNISIA  
TURKEY  
UGANDA  
UKRAINE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
URUGUAY  
UZBEKISTAN  
VENEZUELA  
VIETNAM  
YEMEN  
ZAMBIA  
ZIMBABWE