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[1], the IAEA serves 159 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.

> 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.

[1] *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 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

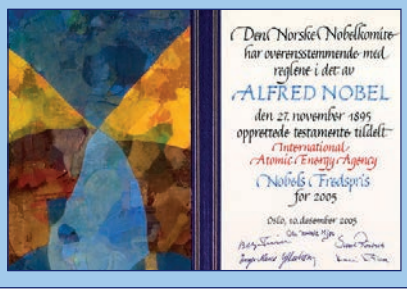
Nuclear Energy
Nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste management

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

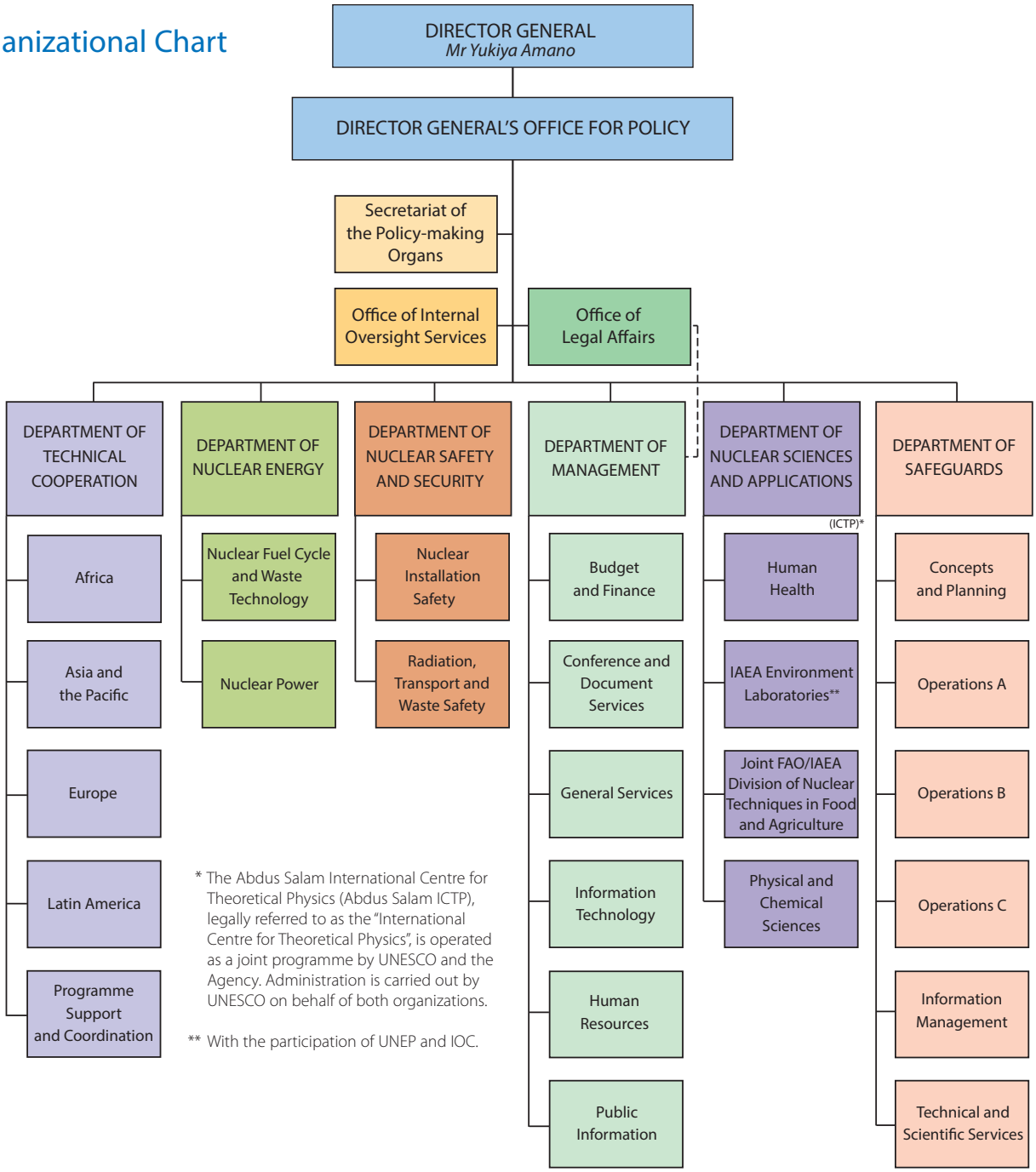




Organization and Financial Resources

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.

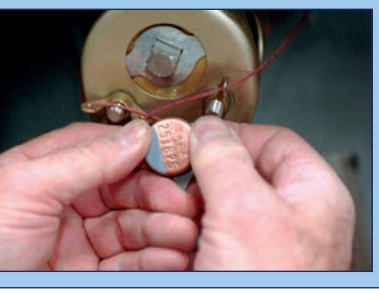
IAEA financial resources fall into two categories: the regular budget and voluntary contributions. The level of total resources for 2013 amounts to €338 million, of which €67.4 million comes from voluntary contributions, mainly from Member States.

Organizational Chart



* The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (Abdus Salam ICTP), legally referred to as the "International Centre for Theoretical Physics", is operated as a joint programme by UNESCO and the Agency. Administration is carried out by UNESCO on behalf of both organizations.

** With the participation of UNEP and IOC.




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
DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
ECUADOR
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
ERITREA
ESTONIA
ETHIOPIA
FIJI
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
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
LATVIA
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYA
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
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PARAGUAY
PERU
PHILIPPINES
POLAND
PORTUGAL
QATAR
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
ROMANIA
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
RWANDA
SAUDI ARABIA
SENEGAL
SERBIA
SEYCHELLES
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SLOVAKIA
SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SRI LANKA
SUDAN
SWAZILAND
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
TAJIKISTAN
THAILAND
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
TOGO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
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

IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace

159 Member States as of February 2013

www.iaea.org

Photos: IAEA, UN and Angra/Brazil.