

Enhancing Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response Through International Cooperation

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Nuclear and radiological events

After the Chernobyl accident in 1986, it was recognised that nuclear and radiological emergencies may easily:

- become international events requiring response in several or many states.
- require substantial resources exceeding the capabilities of single states.

and most certainly:

- cause public interest and concern internationally.

International agreements I

Two conventions were established in 1986 to improve the international cooperation in responding to such events:

- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

These conventions have today been acceded by approx. 90 - 95 States and International organisations.

International agreements II

In addition there are many other agreements established:

- "Global" agreements - international organisations
- Regional agreements
- Bilateral agreements
- "Gentlemen's agreements."

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of authorities of the respective states to provide adequate response to an event. They all need to:

- Decide upon and implement actions to protect life, health, environment and other interests of society.
- Provide the public with sufficient, adequate and timely information.

It is however a growing recognition that consistency across borders is also important to maintain credibility.

Required resources

To be able to accomplish adequate assessments and response, the authorities in the respective states need:

- Infrastructure, organisation, plans, procedures, etc.
- Information on the event, its development, consequences, countermeasures etc.
- Resources in form of expertise, manpower and necessary tools

Building capabilities

Most States have therefore established their own national resources and capabilities to meet their own national requirements, very often to respond to domestic accidents or emergencies.

Lessons identified

Lessons identified after real events and after international exercises have showed us that the international cooperation and the international response to nuclear and radiological events are far from satisfactory.

It is clear that we ought to do something about it.

The diagnosis

Analysing the situation, we came up with the conclusion regarding these conventions and agreements that:

- they form a fairly good framework for international response to nuclear and radiological emergencies.
- the implementation by Member States and international organisations is incomplete.

The vision for international cooperation

The vision for this international cooperation is that we through establishing an efficient international infrastructure for

- sharing information
- sharing resources

would provide more efficient mechanisms for international cooperation and thereby enhance our own response capability significantly.

Action Plan

In order to improve the international cooperation regarding nuclear and radiological preparedness and response, IAEA Member States, their Competent Authorities and the IAEA Secretariat developed

The International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies, 2004-2009.

This plan was approved by the IAEA Board of Governors in June 2004 and welcomed by the IAEA GC in September 2004.

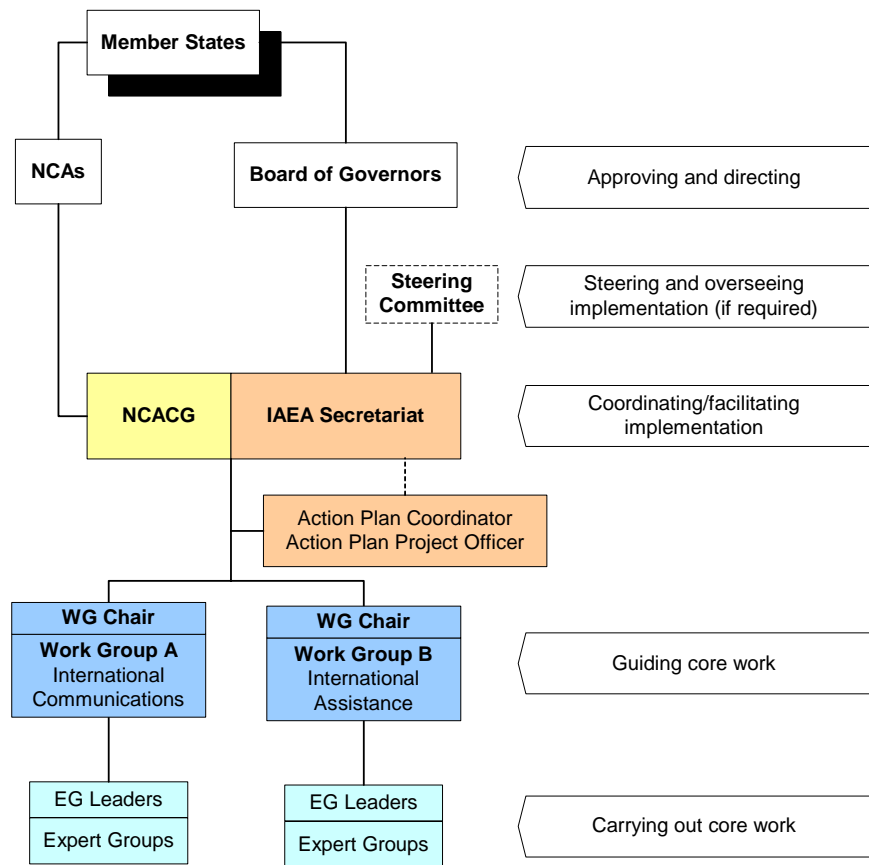
Action Plan elements

The Action Plan has three main elements:

- International Communication
- International Assistance
- Sustainable development

and the implementation is managed jointly by the IAEA Secretariat and the National Competent Authority Coordinating Group, NCACG, through a Programme Manager.

Implementation structure.



Sharing information

- By sharing information available, all countries should have the best information available as basis for their assessments, decisions and public information. This requires:
 - Willingness to share information
 - Tools for efficiently sharing information, i.e. standard communication platform
 - Communication strategy
 - Communication lines
 - Communication protocols
 - Data formats

Sharing resources

- By efficiently sharing resources available, we could all enhance our response capability. This requires:
 - Willingness to share resources
 - Harmonised (standardised) resources
 - Equipment
 - Services
 - Products
 - Procedures

Action Plan implementation

Two Working Groups on International Communication and International Assistance have been established with a number of Expert Groups working on the different actions of the plan.

About 70 experts from 30 different states and international organisations have been engaged in the work.

The work of these two Working Groups is now being finalised and will be reported to the Meeting of Competent Authorities in Vienna in July.

Main outcomes

- Initiation of the drafting of a **Code of Conduct on International Emergency Management for Radiation Events** to fill the gaps identified in the Conventions, the Standards and other documents constituting the framework for the international cooperation.

Main outcomes - communication

- An analysis of international communication capabilities and communication needs.
- A recommended specification of one communication system that will fulfil the needs of States and International organisations as to their inter communication in relation to nuclear or radiological events.
- A draft specification of data formats to be used for communication of some types of information.
- Recommendations on public information
- Recommendations for internationally compatible arrangements for voice- and video communication.

Main outcome- assistance.

- An analysis and identification of different types of assistance.
- Recommended procedures and the way forward to develop international assistance in relation to:
 - Monitoring
 - Atmospheric dispersion modelling - dose predictions
 - Other modelling than atmospheric
 - Medical procedures
 - Handling lost or orphan sources
 - RANET - procedures

The way forward

- All the proposals will be discussed and hopefully accepted by Competent Authorities at their meeting in July.
- The implementation of the recommendations will start.
- Procedures and mechanisms for sustainable development of this international cooperation will be developed and hopefully endorsed by the international society.

What do we need to do?

- **Contribute to the work!!!**
- It will be the responsibility of States and International organisations to implement the solutions as they gradually become available.
- If necessary change existing national procedures, in order to achieve the necessary international compatibility.
- If necessary, change our plans accordingly.

What do I get in return?

- A cheaper, better and more reliable response capability to nuclear and radiological emergencies!

Thank you very much
for your attention!

Any questions??