International Conference on

Stakeholder Engagement

for Nuclear Power Programmes

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

26–30 May 2025

Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Announcement and Call for Papers

A. Background

Nuclear energy can help countries achieve energy security, climate goals and drive sustainable development. Engaging with stakeholders at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle, up to and including the disposal of radioactive waste, is an essential part of any complete nuclear power programme. Involving stakeholders, even those that do not have a direct role in making decisions, can enhance public confidence, support informed decision making and strengthen communication among the key organizations involved in nuclear power programmes. In this regard, it is necessary to understand the opinions and concerns of stakeholders, including the public, and address these concerns effectively in a consistent and clear way. The factors that most influence stakeholders' support include nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear security, waste management, environmental impact and proliferation risks as well as the understanding of the benefits associated with a nuclear power programme. Building strong, positive, and long-term relationships with stakeholders is a key element for both existing and future nuclear power programmes.

A nuclear power programme is a major undertaking and a long-term commitment, for the entire facilities' life cycle right through to final disposal of the ensuing waste. This requires careful planning, preparation and investment in terms of time, institutions, and human resources. The IAEA Milestones Approach (NG-G-3.1 Rev.2 pre-print) identifies 19 infrastructure issues that need to be addressed during the three phases of nuclear infrastructure development to ensure the sustainable implementation of a nuclear power programme. Stakeholder engagement is one of those issues; it is also subject to IAEA Safety Requirements.

The IAEA has in place a set of activities to support Member States in the area of stakeholder engagement by providing guidance on communicating and engaging with both internal and external stakeholders and regularly holding international, national and regional events on stakeholder engagement.

In response to increasing interest and requests for support on stakeholder engagement and communicating about nuclear energy, the IAEA is organizing the first International Conference on Stakeholder Engagement for Nuclear Power Programmes from 26 to 30 May 2025, in Vienna, Austria.

B. Purpose and Objectives

The conference will provide a global platform to exchange good practices, experiences, challenges and lessons learned related to stakeholder engagement for nuclear power programmes. It will enhance global understanding of diverse perspectives, concerns, and interests of stakeholders involved in nuclear power programmes at various levels. It will also share methods and approaches to address the concerns of stakeholders and incorporate their views into the decision-making process.

C. Themes and Topics

The conference welcomes contributions and perspectives, successful and less successful examples and lessons learned at the local, national and international levels, including from governments, regulatory bodies, owners, operators, industry, academia, organizations representing local community interest and other entities or individuals interested or involved in nuclear power programmes addressing the following topics, and spanning the entire nuclear fuel cycle and the various stages of the life cycle of nuclear facilities:

1. **Development and Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Strategies**

   - Proven and innovative strategies to map and engage diverse stakeholder groups, including local communities, governmental bodies, regulatory bodies, owners, operators, environmental organizations, relevant industrial sectors, end users, media and the general public, and facilitate their interaction;

   - Effective ways to engage underrepresented groups as important stakeholders and incorporate their perspectives during nuclear project planning and implementation;

   - Good practices and technical tools in addressing various stakeholder concerns as well as challenges and lessons learned;

   - Enabling factors for stakeholder engagement, including the provision of necessary resources;

   - Mechanisms for stakeholder feedback and participation in the decision-making process;

   - Decisions that benefit from stakeholder engagement in a nuclear power programme;

   - Perspectives that are likely to be raised in relation to different aspects of a nuclear power programme such as: siting, operating, shutdown and decommissioning; releasing sites from regulatory control; repurposing facilities and reusing land; managing spent fuel and radioactive waste, etc.

2. **Managing the Changing Landscapes**

   - Stakeholder engagement throughout history: from 'decide, announce, defend' to 'engage, deliberate, decide', including ethical frameworks in involving stakeholders in the decision-making process;

   - Engaging stakeholders during the development and deployment of innovative nuclear technologies, such as advanced reactor designs including small modular reactors;

   - Addressing the needs of energy-intensive end-users as emerging stakeholders in a nuclear power programme to drive the clean energy transition;

   - Nuclear workforce as a dynamic resource in stakeholder engagement;

   - Sustaining engagement over long timeframes and across borders, including through education and training.

3. **Crisis Communication and Emergency Preparedness**

   - Maintaining public trust, including countering misinformation and disinformation, during nuclear emergencies through effective, timely and transparent communication;

   - Developing and implementing robust crisis communication strategies;

   - Countering misinformation and disinformation, and mitigating their impact on public anxiety and distrust in situations with no impact on nuclear safety or security (perceived emergencies);

   - Communication with the public during nuclear security events.

4. Outreach, Media Relations and Messaging

- Outreach approaches to increase public understanding of nuclear power, its role in energy production, and its contributions to sustainable development, energy security and climate change mitigation, and evaluating the impact of those approaches;

- Outreach approaches to enhance public understanding of the sustainability of nuclear power, in particular the fuel cycle and radioactive waste management, and evaluating the impact of those approaches;

- Exploring strategies for engaging with the media and assessing media coverage on nuclear power programmes;

- Addressing challenges in balancing the sensitive nature of certain information with public and stakeholders' communication needs regarding nuclear power programmes;

- Using data and visualization tools for storytelling on nuclear power;

- Challenges and opportunities in the use of AI in public information, communication and outreach.

D. Structure

The conference agenda will include an opening plenary session featuring keynote speakers. Several panel discussions will highlight status and trends, good practices, lessons learned and innovative ways to engage various groups of stakeholders, followed by question and answer sessions. The conference will also include interactive sessions designed to enhance participants' skills and knowledge on specific stakeholder engagement activities.

The closing session will include a summary of the main conclusions of the conference as well as closing remarks from the IAEA.

E. Expected Outcomes

The conference is expected to enhance Member State capabilities in developing and implementing stakeholder engagement strategies for nuclear power programmes, including all phases of the nuclear fuel cycle up to and including the disposal of radioactive waste. It is expected that the knowledge and lessons learned shared at the conference will inform Member State efforts to proactively engage with their stakeholders in their national contexts. It is also expected that participants will develop new ideas for engagement and communication that may be used in different contexts to promote public understanding of nuclear energy.

F. Target Audience

The conference is open to participants from Member States that are embarking on or considering embarking on new nuclear power programmes as well as Member States with operating nuclear power plants, including those considering expanding their nuclear power programmes. The conference is also open to participants from Member States implementing or planning to implement nuclear fuel cycle

activities and/or radioactive waste management activities related to nuclear power programmes. Participants are expected to include stakeholder engagement practitioners and communication experts, policy makers, government officials, regulators, owners, operators, technical support organizations, waste management organizations, organizations which represent local community interests, industry representatives, research and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and international organizations with an interest in stakeholder engagement for nuclear programmes.

The IAEA highly encourages the participation of women, early career professionals, and individuals from developing countries.

G. Call for Synopses

Contributions on the topics listed in Section C are welcome as synopses which will serve as a basis for selection of speakers in the panel sessions. All submissions must present original work which has not been published elsewhere. Authors of accepted synopses should be ready to participate and present their work during one of the panel discussions.

G.1. Submission of Synopses

Synopses (approximately 500 to 600 words on one or a maximum of two A4 pages, may contain any charts, graphs, figures and references) should give enough information on the content of the proposed paper to enable the Programme Committee to evaluate it. Anyone wishing to present at the conference must submit a synopsis in electronic format using the conference's file submission system (IAEA-INDICO), which is accessible from the conference web page (see Section Q). The synopsis can be submitted through this system from **11 July 2024** until **2 December 2024**. Specifications for the layout will be available on IAEA-INDICO. The system for electronic submission of synopsis, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of contributed synopsis. Authors are encouraged to submit synopsis as early as possible. The IAEA will not accept submissions via email.

In addition, authors must register online using the InTouch+ platform (see Section H). The online registration together with the auto-generated Participation Form (Form A) and Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) must reach the IAEA no later than **2 December 2024**.

IMPORTANT: The Programme Committee will consider uploaded synopses only if these two forms have been received by the IAEA through the established official channels (see Section H).

G.2. Acceptance of Synopses

The Secretariat reserves the right to exclude synopses that do not comply with its technical or scientific quality standards and that do not apply to one of the topics listed in Section C.

Authors will be informed by **31 January 2025** as to whether their submission has been accepted, either orally or as a poster, for presentation at the conference. Accepted synopses will also be reproduced in an unedited electronic compilation of Synopses which will be made available to all registered participants of the conference.

G.3 Proceedings

Following the conference, the IAEA will publish a summary report. The proceedings will be made available to read online.

H. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event must be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be a member of an organization that has been invited to attend.

Registration through the InTouch+ platform:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org):

- Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can **sign in here** with their username and password;
- Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can **register here**.

2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:

- Complete or update their personal details under 'Basic Profile' (if no financial support is requested) or under 'Complete Profile' (if financial support is requested) and upload the relevant supporting documents;
- Search for the relevant event (**EVT2306597**) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
- Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
- If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
- Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate Participation Form (Form A), Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and/or Grant Application Form (Form C);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application together with the auto-generated form(s) will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application together with the form(s) will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: Should prospective participants wish to submit a paper or request financial support, the application needs to be submitted by the specified deadlines (see section O).

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

If it is not possible to submit the application through the InTouch+ platform, prospective participants are requested to contact the IAEA's Conference Services Section via email: Conference.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. Further information can be found in the Data Processing Notice concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

I. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA using the InTouch+ platform through their competent national authority (see Section H). Participants should ensure that applications for grants are submitted by **2 December 2024**.

Applications must be accompanied by Participation Form (Form A) and Grant Application Form (Form C) which are autogenerated in the InTouch+ platform.

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

J. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary and final programme will be made available on the conference web page (see Section Q) prior to the start of the conference. The electronic compilation of Choose an item. will be accessible free of charge to participants registered for the conference.

K. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for commercial vendors' displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the Scientific Secretariat by email SEConf-2025@iaea.org by **13 December 2024**.

L. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English. All communications must be sent to the IAEA in English.

M.   Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels offering a reduced rate for participants are listed on https://www.iaea.org/events. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying fees for cancellations, re-bookings and no-shows.

N. Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria as early as three months but not later than four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

For more information, please see the Austria Visa Information document available on https://www.iaea.org/events.

O. Key Deadlines and Dates

Submission of synopses through IAEA-INDICO	**2 December 2024**
Submission of Form B (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	**2 December 2024**
Submission of Form C (together with Form A) through the InTouch+ platform	**2 December 2024**
Notification of acceptance of synopses for oral or poster presentation	**31 January 2025**
Submission of Form A only (no paper submission, no grant request) through the InTouch+ platform	**20 May 2025**

P. Conference Secretariat

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA's Conference Services Section.

Q. Conference Web Page

Please visit the IAEA conference web page regularly for new information regarding this conference.