



International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power

Incheon, Republic of Korea

27-29 October 2026

Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency

in cooperation with the
Nuclear Energy Agency of the
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Hosted by the
Government of the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Science and ICT

Announcement

A. Introduction

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will convene the sixth International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 27 to 29 October 2026, following earlier conferences in Paris (2005), Beijing (2009), St. Petersburg (2013), Abu Dhabi (2017), and Washington, D.C. (2022).

Nuclear power is increasingly recognized as a reliable low-carbon source of energy that can support long-term national development and enhance energy security. Today, 31 countries operate 413 nuclear power reactors with a combined capacity of around 377 gigawatts, providing a significant share of the world's low-carbon emission electricity. In addition, more than 60 countries are embarking on or considering the introduction of nuclear power.

Progress across several areas will be important to enable countries to fully benefit from nuclear energy. Embarking countries will need to establish robust national infrastructure, develop capable institutions and regulatory frameworks, secure political commitment and foster public confidence to ensure safe, secure and sustainable programmes. Countries with existing fleets are focusing on extending the lifetime of operating reactors, and expanding their nuclear power programmes in line with future energy demand projections and climate goals.

Financing remains a central issue for many countries. In response, governments, industry and financial institutions are adopting new financing models, including public-private partnerships, corporate power purchase agreements with major technology companies and other sustainable finance instruments, to mobilize investment and reduce barriers to entry. Multilateral development banks and international financial institutions are examining how they may support nuclear projects within their mandates, while private capital is increasingly engaging in new reactor development and deployment. Alongside large-scale reactors, advanced reactors designs, including small modular reactors (SMRs), and fusion are gaining momentum.

Developing an inclusive workforce across all-generations and supply chain capabilities needed for the future of the industry will also be essential to deliver long-term and inclusive national benefits. Strengthening human resource development, supplier readiness, and industrial participation can enable countries to maximise economic and societal gains. In parallel, new applications for nuclear energy, including for powering data centres, maritime transport, and remote applications, are emerging and may create additional opportunities for innovation including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), partnerships and industrial development. Throughout these developments, the IAEA supports countries in building national capacity, strengthening nuclear safety, security, and safeguards, and fostering the exchange of knowledge and good practices. Collaborative international frameworks also help accelerate technology readiness, harmonize regulatory approaches, and ensure that nuclear power contributes effectively to climate goals while upholding the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation.

With sustained commitment, innovation and international cooperation, nuclear energy can make a meaningful contribution to a secure, resilient, clean and sustainable global energy future.

B. Objectives

The conference will provide a forum for ministers, policymakers, senior officials and experts to engage in high-level dialogue on the role of nuclear energy in meeting clean energy demand, contributing to energy security, energy systems resilience and sustainable development, as well as to discuss and exchange views on the key issues related to the development and deployment of nuclear energy.

C. Structure, Themes and Topics

Ministerial level participants are invited to deliver brief national statements related to nuclear energy, including for example, their national energy strategy and vision for the role of nuclear energy; challenges for introducing, maintaining or expanding nuclear power; and the role of international collaboration in the development and deployment of new nuclear power technologies.

The scientific and technical programme of the conference will consist of:

- A plenary session at which ministerial statements will be delivered;
- Panel discussions and In-Focus events featuring internationally recognized experts and high-level speakers on thematic topics; and
- A concluding plenary session with a Conference President's Statement.

In line with the objectives outlined above, the panel sessions are intended to address the following key topics from a high-level policy and strategic perspective:

Expanding Horizons: New Builds and Embarking Countries

As more countries look to nuclear energy to meet development, energy demand, and climate goals, creating the right national foundations is critical. Long-term success is shaped by national infrastructure, strong institutions, effective programme management, financing, and public trust. This session will examine how both embarking and expanding countries can deliver first plants successfully through effective planning, informed decision-making, and international cooperation.

Enhancing Regulation: Safety, Security, Non-Proliferation, and Harmonization

Effective and trusted regulation is essential to the safe and secure deployment of nuclear power. Strong cooperation and alignment among national regulators can support more timely and predictable project delivery while upholding high standards for safety, security, and non-proliferation. This session will examine practical steps to advance regulatory harmonization, strengthen regulatory cooperation, and improve transparency for industry and the public.

Unlocking Innovation: Advanced Reactors, SMRs, and Fusion

Innovative nuclear technologies are moving closer to deployment, with governments and industry accelerating efforts to commercialize advanced reactors, SMRs, and fusion. Clear policy direction, timely licensing pathways, and early demonstration projects will be essential to accelerate deployment of these technologies. This session will explore what is needed to move from prototypes to real-world projects, and how international collaboration can shorten timelines and share risk.

Delivering Benefits: Workforce, Supply Chains, and Industrial Growth

Nuclear programmes have the potential to create high-quality jobs, strengthen domestic industries, and drive long-term economic growth. Maximizing these benefits requires strategic investment in people, resilient supply chains, and industrial capability. This session will highlight approaches to workforce development, supplier readiness, and local industrial participation that deliver lasting, inclusive benefits for communities and national industries.

Emerging Applications: Nuclear for Maritime, Offshore, and Remote Sites

Nuclear power is emerging as a transformative option for maritime transport, offshore energy systems, and remote and isolated energy systems. Turning this potential into reality will require legal and regulatory frameworks, innovative solutions, and international partnerships. This session will explore opportunities, challenges, and pathways to deployment for nuclear solutions at sea and beyond.

In-Focus sessions will address, among other topics, new approaches to financing, stakeholder engagement, and AI.

D. Participation

The conference is aimed at ministers, senior government officials, high-level staff from agencies involved in policy making for, and management of, nuclear energy, and technical and legal experts working in all areas of nuclear power programmes. The conference is also intended to attract industry and civil society representatives, including non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions, and academic institutions. The IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of women, early career professionals and individuals from developing countries.

E. Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated as part of a delegation of a Member State or an invited organization.

Registration of Delegations

Designated focal points for online registration shall register their delegation through the InTouch+ online portal, accessible through the following link <https://intouchplus.iaea.org/>

Registration should be completed by **19 October 2026** under **EVT2502033**.

G. Special Information for Permanent Missions

Ministerial Segment: A Ballot to determine the Speaking Order in the Ministerial Segment will be held at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria and announced through a Note by the Secretariat. Following the Ballot, further details related to the Ministerial Statements will be made available.

H. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme of the conference will be made available on the conference web page (see Section O) and the final programme will be distributed at the conference. National statements are delivered in the original language. PowerPoint presentations and other relevant documents will be posted on the conference web page during the conference.

I. Working Language

The working languages of the conference will be all the official IAEA languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

The working language of the In Focus and Side Events will be English.

J. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for displays/exhibits during the conference. Details will be provided on the conference web page soon, including an option for early registration.

K. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at Songdo ConvensiA, Incheon, Republic of Korea. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-booking and no shows.

Detailed information on accommodation and other administrative details will be made available on the conference web page prior to the start of the event (see Section O).

L. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter the Republic of Korea should submit the necessary application(s) to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of the Republic of Korea as soon as possible. Further advice and instructions will be made available on the conference web page prior to the start of the event (see Section O).

M. Key Deadlines and Dates

Registration of Delegations (as per Section G)	19 October 2026
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N. IAEA Conference Secretariat

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

O. Conference Web Page

Please visit the following web page regularly for new information regarding this conference:
<https://www.iaea.org/events/ministerial-nuclear-power-conference-2026>