



Wilton Park

Concept note

Maximising benefits of peaceful nuclear uses: aligning nuclear security and development priorities

Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 October 2023 | WP3058

Wiston House, UK

Summary

In May 2019, Wilton Park convened a [workshop](#) to discuss the political and perceptual barriers preventing closer synergies between nuclear security and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology (PNU), and identify opportunities to promote closer cooperation between all relevant stakeholders in a mutually beneficial manner on this topic.

Over the last four years, Wilton Park and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) have explored how nuclear applications for energy, health, industry and food security can be expanded in a safe, secure and responsible manner to contribute to United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Wilton Park and the VCDNP are organising this two-day workshop to reflect on progress and remaining challenges in this area, focusing on the role of nuclear security to maximise the contribution of PNU to SDGs. Participants will also discuss international treaties, conventions, voluntary arrangements and events that support the global nuclear security architecture, consider their socio-economic benefits and how to overcome barriers to the universalisation of these treaties and arrangements.

Goals

- Develop an inclusive narrative on nuclear security and resilience that reflects the priorities of the G-77.
- Promote the benefits of becoming a party to international treaties and form a better understanding, through shared experience, of how the obstacles to the universalisation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM/A) can be overcome.
- Raise awareness among policy makers of how the CPPNM/A and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security and Radioactive Sources (CoC) support the

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work of operators, law enforcement, regulatory authorities, transport firms and technicians, and the challenges they face.

- Consider issues related to the security of radioactive sources and their accessibility and how countries can continue to benefit from medical, agriculture and industrial applications that rely on these sources.
- Identify how the 2024 IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) can benefit participating countries and how countries can contribute to a productive conference that drives action on enhancing nuclear security.
- Examine the contribution of nuclear security to the achievement of UN SDGs, including role of Security by Design (SeBD) and advanced and machine based alternative technologies.
- Engage with nuclear industry on its challenges and priorities.
- Consider ways in which all stakeholders can leverage international cooperation and available tools to strengthen national -level capacity building, and also identifying available resources.

Intended outcomes

- The role of nuclear security in supporting development objectives of low- and middle-income countries is clearly defined and related challenges are better understood.
- Participants have a better understanding of how nuclear security regimes such as the CPPNM and its Amendment and the IAEA's Nuclear Security Series (NSS) guidance documents create a legal and regulatory foundation that supports areas development for countries,, particularly those with primarily radioactive material.
- Challenges to addressing the perception of competing priorities between nuclear security and sustainable development are discussed along with ways to support mutually reinforcing strategies.
- Identification of obstacles impeding universalisation and strengthened implementation of the CPPNM/A.
- Ways to improve outreach on and support of the universalisation and implementation of key international nuclear security commitments are identified.
- Improved engagement between nuclear industry, policymakers.
- The valuable contribution of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology to sustainable development and achieving low emissions goals is reinforced, as is the notion that nuclear security is integral to maximising these benefits.
- Participants take home a near-term list of action items relevant to their sphere of influence.
- Meeting outcomes are captured in a report summarising the discussions, conclusions, policy recommendations and actions, which will be widely circulated to interested parties and posted on Wilton Park and other websites.

Participants

50 participants including policy makers and influencers (from Vienna missions and from capitals), technical experts, regulators, university and industry, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Monitoring and evaluation

Wilton Park's Monitoring and Evaluation process includes follow-up with all participants, speakers, and partners on planned actions. An electronic questionnaire will be completed by all participants during the meeting and a further survey conducted 3-6 months after the event.

Communications

Discussion in all Wilton Park sessions is 'off the record' and no individual speaker or participant should be quoted (nor their identity or institutional affiliation revealed) without that individual's express permission. The protocol also applies to all uses of digital and social media, both before, during and after the event.

Our communications team will develop a communications strategy to promote the themes of the event and maximise outcomes.

Format

The participatory format of the meeting, comprising of panels, interactive sessions and roundtable discussion will help generate fresh insights and analysis. It will be held on the basis of non-attributable discussion in a neutral environment designed to encourage an open and constructive exchange.

About the VCDNP

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is an international non-governmental organisation established on the initiative of the Austrian Foreign Ministry in 2010. The VCDNP's mission is to promote international peace and security by providing a platform for independent analysis and dialogue in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology.

In order to fulfil its mission, the VCDNP employs conferences, seminars, and other fora to foster result-oriented discussion among international organisations, national governments, non-governmental experts, scholars, and civil society. The Center partners with other academic and non-governmental institutions, as well as international organisations in conducting research, outreach, education, and training on non-proliferation, peaceful uses and disarmament.

About Wilton Park

Wilton Park is an executive agency of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Our mission is to serve as a force for good, advancing practical solutions to critical global issues through facilitation of international dialogue. We do this by delivering tailored events to engage key opinion formers, across sectors and around the world on/to address foreign policy priorities. Through these events, we aim to create and maintain load-bearing networks and/or communities of interest. Our role is to leverage these networks to support the FCDO.

We bring fresh thinking to the development of international policy. Together we create trusted global networks – connecting the public, private and third sector - that underpin its delivery. As such, our value as a representative of Global Britain, lies in the calibre, mix and reach of the people we bring together. We do this through virtual, hybrid, and face to face dialogues, online, at our home in West Sussex, elsewhere in the UK and overseas.

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