

International engagement on nuclear safeguards

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Safeguards: what are they and what are they for?

- Primary safeguards instruments are:
 - Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA)
 - Small Quantities Protocol (SQP)
 - Additional Protocol (AP)

- Non-proliferation regime relies on worldwide system of nuclear safeguards that aim to:
 - Deter and detect non-peaceful uses of nuclear activities
 - Assist countries in demonstrating peaceful nature of nuclear activities
 - Enable countries to cooperate in confidence on nuclear initiatives
 - Provide concrete mechanism supporting principle: ‘international peace and security are to be promoted with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources’

Implementing IAEA safeguards

- Implementing safeguards requires understanding CSAs and APs:
 - Definitions of nuclear activities, materials and items
 - Levels & types of activities, materials and items to be monitored
 - How to control, account and report them to IAEA
 - How to host IAEA inspections

- Translating this understanding into NM ‘accounting & control’ system that:
 - Integrates well with national legal, administrative and business culture
 - Is effective and efficient
 - Is adaptable/future-proof

Safeguards: status quo and common themes

- Key obligations are common to all safeguards agreements, but states can use different nationally appropriate ways of implementing them based on:
 - Type of existing national control system for NM
 - Level and type of nuclear activities, and ambitions
 - Legal and administrative tradition/system

- But countries can also differ in the:
 - Suitability of national legal & administrative system to manage NM
 - Current familiarity with non-proliferation regime and safeguards
 - Level of implementation of CSAs and SQPs
 - Availability of resources/prioritisation for ratification & implementation.

Safeguards: status quo and common themes, con't

- Government issue ‘champions’ may want to focus on:
 - Exploring rationale and implications for country of AP ratification/EIF
 - Reviewing and developing legal, administrative and practical arrangements for safeguards implementation.
 - Building general awareness among departmental stakeholders and consulting with them
 - Enhancing affected entities’ knowledge of safeguards duties
- Assistance and engagement can therefore be useful:
 - At start of AP ratification and implementation process
 - As country considers revising its legislative framework
 - As country reviews institutional practices for improvement/rationalisation

- Many sectors and governments can strengthen their profile by:
 - Experience-sharing
 - Review of national situation against international practices
 - Learning and training
- Limited No. of bodies provide workshops and technical assistance, each offering different approach and focus.
- VERTIC's safeguards assistance activities:
 - *Purpose*: assist governments that want to:
 - Take up the IAEA Additional Protocol
 - Increase understanding of how to implement safeguards effectively and efficiently, including when renewing nuclear activities plans
 - Increase understanding of non-proliferation regime and their countries' role in it.
 - *Goal*: broader, more inclusive and sustainable non-proliferation regime
 - *Method*: raising awareness, sharing experience, building capacity

VERTIC's project: activities

- Awareness-raising initiatives
 - Bilateral engagement, contributing to forums, disseminating materials
- Legal, technical and practical materials
 - Systematic learning tools explaining NPT, safeguards, and what they mean for a country
- Identifying countries' potential needs
 - Through gap analysis surveys and stakeholder consultation
- Building repository of information on state approaches to safeguards
 - To encourage and facilitate experience-sharing
- In-country Visits, on invitation by governments:
 - Providing tailored workshops for gov't stakeholders across relevant departments

VERTIC's safeguards database

- Developing database to facilitate knowledge- and experience-sharing
- Contents:
 - Country profile: geographic region; legal system, nuclear activities.
 - Legislative framework for safeguards: how provisions are incorporated
 - Practical structures: organisation of regulators and related bodies
 - Overall description of implementation: evolution and rationale
- Functions:
 - Ability to generate tailored reports and result forms from information base;
 - By single country: implementation of specific provisions/areas (e.g. export controls, inspections, reporting);
 - Across different countries: comparative analysis on implementation of selected provisions and areas
 - Ability to select countries with specific profiles to focus comparison.

Observations for government

Integrating safeguards into national legal and administrative framework

- Much safeguards information is data a gov't wants to have anyway
- Enhance efficiency and reduce strain on limited resources:
 - where possible, make use of existing administrative procedures for implementing safeguards, or, if necessary;
 - integrate new ones with other regulatory activities.
- Countries with small amounts of nuclear activity will have correspondingly less information that they need to collect and report

Observations for government, con't

Personnel and outreach

- Issue 'champion' in gov't is helpful in matching external assistance with internal needs, and keeping ratification/implementation on course
- Initial effort needed to set up appropriate system for collecting AP information, should ease off, after first year.
- Useful to have national stakeholder outreach activities to familiarise stakeholders (operators, customs, universities, hospitals etc) with safeguards requirements
- Also useful to hold 'trial run' before first year of AP reporting
- Turn over of staff can be problematic if safeguards knowledge is lost

Safeguards are meant to be cooperative endeavour: IAEA is there to help

Observations for assistance providers

- Maintain technical and legal knowledge of safeguards
- Build up understanding of countries' rationale for taking on safeguards
- Understand what ratifying and implementing safeguards means for a particular country:
 - Try to have good appreciation of country's political, economic, security and infrastructure context, as well as its nuclear activities
 - Try to understand safeguards from the country's perspective
- Coordinate activities with other assistance providers



- If you would like to discuss this project further, please get in touch directly:
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- Or for more information about this project online, visit:
www.vertic.org/pages/homepage/programmes/verification-and-monitoring/the-additional-protocol.php

Thanks for listening!