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
Experience-sharing and training in safeguards

• 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: larry.macfaul@vertic.org

• 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!