



# Engagement and Cooperation on IAEA Safeguards – Additional Protocol: VERTIC Initiative and Methods

Alberto Muti, VERTIC

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## Summary

- VERTIC's Project on the Additional Protocol and Safeguards
- The need for experience-sharing in safeguards implementation
- VERTIC's safeguards database – a knowledge base on implementation approaches

# Implementing IAEA Safeguards

- Nuclear Safeguards are an important international instrument, and are widely applied throughout the world. As of September 2014:
  - 181 States have brought a CSA into force;
  - 95 have operative SQPs;
  - 144 States have signed an AP, and 124 have brought one into force.

# Implementing IAEA Safeguards

- Implementing Safeguards requires an understanding of several specific areas:
  - The content and obligations of safeguards agreements;
  - The kind of activities, materials and items that are covered by safeguards;
  - The kind of measures a country needs to take to identify, account for and report on the controlled materials and activities.
- It is also important that safeguards implementation is both **effective** and **efficient**, to avoid a waste of resources and efforts.

## VERTIC's Additional Protocol and Safeguards project

- VERTIC's project focuses on raising awareness and building capacity in countries:
  - Research & analysis on implementation practices:
    - countries without AP (gap analysis);
    - countries that have already implemented AP (as examples);
  - In-Country Visits:
    - On invitation by governments only;
    - Awareness-raising and implementation assistance on Safeguards and AP

## VERTIC's Additional Protocol and Safeguards project

- VERTIC also offers similar assistance on other instruments:
  - Convention for Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM);
  - International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT);
  - IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;
  - UN Security Council Resolution 1540

## National Approaches to Implementation

- Certain key provisions and arrangements are common to all states with safeguards agreements
- However: states adopt **different approaches** in implementing safeguards, based on different criteria:
  - Legal tradition;
  - National institutions;
  - Nuclear activities.
- Countries differ in their familiarity with safeguards instruments and capacity to engage with implementation:
  - Countries with less experience need to build a base of capacity before tackling the issue;
  - Even countries with significant experience need to review their processes and approaches

# The Need for Experience-Sharing

- Building capacity can be a time- and resource-consuming process
- Knowledge-building and experience-sharing tools can **facilitate** this process as they work to:
  - **remove barriers** to knowledge;
  - **Increase** understanding of different approaches.
- This kind of tool can be useful for countries at various stages of the implementation process:
  - At the **start** of the ratification and implementation process;
  - As a country considers **revising** its own legislative framework;
  - As a country reviews its institutional practices to **improve** and **rationalize** an already-established system



## Experience-Sharing to date

- Cross-fertilization and experience-sharing is common in many sectors
- Review of practices against international standards is important in many areas
- This is **already** going on in nuclear safeguards, through workshops and technical meetings
- VERTIC's database tool will complement these activities by providing a single, comprehensive repository of knowledge

## VERTIC's Safeguards Database

An information resource on safeguards implementation which facilitates knowledge- and experience-sharing, by collecting information on various approaches to safeguards implementation in a flexible and searchable database.

## Contents of the Database

- Country overview, including:
  - Geographical region;
  - General legal system and tradition;
  - Current and planned nuclear activities.
- Adaptation of Specific provisions in the CSA and AP:
  - Highlighting the way single provisions have been translated in the national legislative framework;
  - Including relevant legal references.

## Contents of the Database

- Information on the organizational structure of safeguards regulators and on practical implementation aspects
- Overall description of implementation approach through narrative analysis, looking at evolution, practices and (when possible) underlying rationale.

## Using the Database

### Advantages of the database format: **Flexibility** and **Usability**

- Ability to generate tailored reports and result forms from information base;
- Different type of focus possible:
  - Overall information on country approaches;
  - In-depth analysis on the implementation of specific provisions, including by area (e.g. export controls, inspections, reporting);
  - Comparative analysis on implementation of selected provisions and areas across different countries.
- Ability to select countries with specific profiles to focus comparison

## Concepts and Methodology

- Implementation information examined and categorized according to range of criteria:
  - *When*: identifying time-line of legislative implementation (e.g. before or after signature, EIF?)
  - *How*: identifying if provisions are implemented through
    - laws, regulations, or other instruments,
    - dedicated measures or use of other pre-existing measures?
  - *Who*: what institutions oversee or are involved
  - *Why*: what are underlying factors and rationale for the way a state has chosen to implement the AP and specific provisions?

## Beneficiaries

- This tool is intended to help states and other stakeholders to share experiences, practices and lessons learned.
- It can help state officials directly involved in implementation:
  - Radiation protection and nuclear regulators;
  - Custom officials;
  - Legislators;
  - Diplomats.
- It can also be of assistance to institutions relevant to safeguards activities, but not involved in implementation:
  - Departments of energy, industry and mines;
  - Research and higher education;
  - Defence;
  - Public health officials.

## Future perspectives:

- The database is currently under development, and its launch will be announced by VERTIC
- Criteria for external access to the database are being finalized
- The database is being designed with flexibility and future extension in mind.
- Initial prospects are being considered to extend additional areas:
  - **Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security** to create an **integrated 3S Database**



Thank you!

Alberto Muti,

[Alberto.muti@vertic.org](mailto:Alberto.muti@vertic.org)

Larry Macfaul,

[Larry.macfaul@vertic.org](mailto:Larry.macfaul@vertic.org)