

Terms of Reference for CGULS

Terms of Reference for the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS)

PREAMBLE

The IAEA Member States of Central Asia, and the international community have a strong interest in the environmentally sound, socially responsible, and systematic management of risks associated with uranium production legacy sites located in the region. The remediation activities should be consistent with international standards, recommendations and good practice and compliant with national regulatory requirements.

The need for closer coordination has been recognized by all organizations working in the region. A regional conference was sponsored by the UNDP in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in April 2009, followed by an IAEA conference in Astana, Kazakhstan, in May 2009, on the subject of remediation of lands contaminated by radioactive residues. A NATO meeting in June 2006 and another in June 2009, as well as a coordination meeting with interested IAEA Member States in Central Asia hosted by the European Commission (EC) in Brussels in 2010 were also held. To heighten the awareness of the international community of the problem of uranium legacy sites in Central Asia, an international forum was conducted by the UNDP in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2009.

In support of addressing this regional problem, the IAEA, in cooperation with the EC, developed a baseline technical document (Assessment and Way Forward for Legacy Uranium Production sites in Central Asia: An International Approach) in the latter part of 2009. The technical baseline document builds upon, and complements, previous international assessments (IAEA, TACIS, INTAS, NATO, ENVSEC, UNDP, OSCE etc.). It provides a prioritized list of activities on a regional and site specific level for use by all interested parties (although the factual database needed improvement). The document has been endorsed by the participating Member States in letters to the Director General received in December 2009 and January 2010.

Additionally Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Belarus and Tajikistan, all met on 5 April 2012 in Moscow to approve the EurAsEC programme (“International Target Program of the Eurasian Economic Community. Recultivation of the Uranium Mining Areas of the EurAsEC member States 2012”)

Recognizing the above and the clear need for a coordinated approach, the group known as the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS) is agreed as a coordination mechanism.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the CGULS is to promote cooperation amongst IAEA Member States affected by uranium legacy issues (affected Member States), national and international organizations involved in the management, remediation or regulatory oversight of uranium legacy sites by:

1. providing a forum for information exchange and provision of technical advice; and
2. coordinating the actions of the members to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort.

SCOPE

The CGULS will support the affected IAEA Member States by assisting them to develop projects that will provide solutions for remediation of their legacy uranium production sites and give confidence to potential donors to invest. The CGULS will serve as a forum for collaboration, discussion, and exchanges of information on plans and programmes to be implemented under national and international initiatives, with the objective of effectively and efficiently addressing legacy wastes at uranium production sites. In this regard, CGULS members will assist in monitoring and facilitating progress of pre-defined projects and works taking into account the technical baseline document (Assessment and Way Forward for Legacy Uranium Production sites in Central Asia: An International Approach) and other documents as appropriate and as agreed upon by the CGULS.

The CGULS will provide a forum for the affected IAEA Member States and international partners to be informed of each other's current activities, future plans, interests and potential to optimize use of resources. It will also be a mechanism to ensure international standards and good practices are applied to remediation projects.

In order to support the CGULS, the IAEA will provide a Secretariat and coordinate assessment and technical advice on uranium legacy site proposals and projects as requested, drawing as appropriate upon national and international experts.

MEMBERSHIP

Eligible members of the CGULS are the affected Member States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), as well as other Member States and international organizations who are interested in contributing to the objective and scope of the CGULS.

All members of the CGULS commit to proactively participate and to supply relevant information to the Secretariat in furtherance of the objective of the CGULS.

CHAIRMANSHIP

The chairmanship of the CGULS will rotate among the affected Member States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) on an annual basis.

The Chairman conducts the CGULS meetings and teleconferences, moderates the discussions and sums up the common viewpoints.

Meetings will be held wherever is most efficient for conduct of the activities of the CGULS.

SECRETARIAT

The establishment and operation of the CGULS Secretariat is entrusted to the IAEA, which will identify premises and infrastructure necessary for its work. The Secretariat will:

- collect and report information and regularly inform CGULS Members on international cooperation programmes and activities related to the CGULS;
- closely and regularly follow the situation concerning uranium legacy sites, and other on-going related activities;
- organize and support working groups, panels of experts or expert missions, as necessary, and subject to available funding;
- take into account the interests of all CGULS Members in preparing the CGULS meetings, agenda, and other activities as appropriate;
- act as a scientific secretary of the workshops and meetings: prepare agendas; select papers and presentations; arrange contacts with invited experts; draft minutes of the meetings, and circulate the proceedings among CGULS Members;
- disseminate the conclusions and the minutes from the meeting; and
- provide organizational and logistical support regarding the arrangement of CGULS meetings and workshops, translating and printing materials, etc.

WORK PROCEDURES

The identification of priority areas for support may result from strategic studies, or e.g., dedicated technical workshops, donor workshops, ad-hoc groups, review panels, expert missions, etc. The CGULS may call upon the Secretariat for specific tasks. The Secretariat may be requested to evaluate project proposals, carry out peer reviews or provide expert support, etc.

The CGULS may support or arrange workshops, seminars etc. on agreed subjects of importance for the management of uranium legacy sites where CGULS Members agree to such an activity.

MEETINGS

Plenary CGULS meetings will normally be held at least once a year.

When documents to be discussed at the meeting require extensive consultations, the Secretariat will endeavour to make them available for the participants at least two weeks before the meeting.

Reports of the meetings should be distributed to all the participants of the meetings in both English and Russian languages, if possible.

The Secretariat may, if needed, form special working groups to undertake preparatory work for specific agenda items to be taken up at CGULS meetings.

FINANCING

Participants in the CGULS meetings and other related meetings are expected to cover their own costs or may be supported by national or international organizations.

The activities to be carried out by the Secretariat under these Terms of Reference are subject to the availability of appropriate funds, personnel and other resources.