

Guide to Nuclear Law in Uzbekistan: The International and National Legal Framework Today

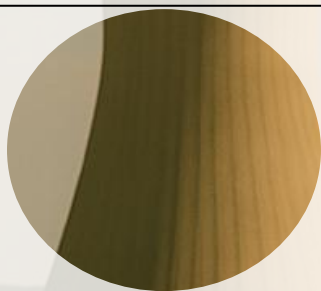


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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS WERE PARTIALLY USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS GUIDE.

Introduction

This guide has been prepared with the purpose of providing a comprehensive overview of the legal framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy. The document examines the country's international obligations, national legislation, licensing mechanisms, handling of nuclear materials and radioactive waste, as well as issues related to nuclear and radiation safety.

The guide is based on an analysis of the normative legal acts of Uzbekistan, ratified international treaties, IAEA directives and recommendations, as well as decrees issued by the President and the Cabinet of Ministers. It presents both fundamental legal provisions and specialized regulatory mechanisms—including state supervision, import-export procedures, participation in international agreements, and non-proliferation regimes.

The document is intended for a wide range of users: representatives of regulatory authorities, legal and technical specialists, researchers, students, as well as foreign partners and investors. It does not have normative legal force; however, it serves a reference and analytical function, facilitating a more comprehensive understanding of existing regulations and the application of legal instruments in the nuclear sector.

Objectives and relevance

The main purpose of this guidance is to promote transparency, predictability, and legal certainty in Uzbekistan's nuclear energy sector. The document is designed to structure information on the current state of the regulatory framework, reflect the country's international obligations, and support law enforcement in accordance with international standards. This guidance is particularly relevant in the context of the active development of the national nuclear program, enhancing Uzbekistan's role in the international nuclear safety architecture, and attracting investment and technological partners. It offers practical value both for the domestic adaptation of international norms and for creating a favorable environment for engagement with the IAEA and other international institutions.

Context of development

The Republic of Uzbekistan possesses significant uranium resources and is developing the infrastructure for the peaceful use of atomic energy. A strategic milestone was the 2018 agreement with the Russian Federation on the construction of a nuclear power plant, which was supplemented in 2025 with a new phase providing for the creation of an integrated nuclear power station in the Jizzakh region — comprising two high-power reactors (VVER-1000) and two low-power reactors (RITM-200N), with a total installed capacity of approximately 2.1 GW. In addition, in 2019, the Concept for the Development of Nuclear Energy until 2029 was approved, and in 2024, the Uzatom Agency was established, responsible for the implementation and coordination of projects in this field.



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Terms and Definitions (Glossary)

Atomic energy (nuclear energy) - Energy released during the fission or fusion of atomic nuclei. In this guide, the terms "atomic energy" and "nuclear energy" are used synonymously.

Category of nuclear materials - a quantitative measure of the significance of nuclear materials in terms of nuclear material accounting and control.

Effective kilogram - a special unit used in safeguarding nuclear material. The quantity in effective kilograms is obtained by taking: for plutonium, its weight in kilograms; for uranium with an enrichment of 0.01 (1%) and above, its weight in kilograms multiplied by the square of its enrichment; for uranium with an enrichment below 0.01 (1%) and above 0.005 (0.5%), its weight in kilograms multiplied by 0.0001; and for depleted uranium with an enrichment of 0.005 (0.5%) or below, and for thorium, its weight in kilograms multiplied by 0.00005.

Entities engaged in the circulation of RS and RAW - Legal entities engaged in activities involving the handling of radioactive substances (RS) and radioactive waste (RAW), including their extraction, production, generation, processing, use, storage, maintenance, transportation (including movement across the customs border of the Republic of Uzbekistan), disposal, neutralization, and burial of RS and RAW within the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the procedures established by law.

Heat generating waste (HGW) - Radioactive waste that is sufficiently radioactive that the decay heat significantly increases its temperature and the temperature of its surroundings.

Incident - Any unintended event, including operating errors, equipment failures, initiating events, accident precursors, near misses or other mishaps, or unauthorized act, malicious or non-malicious, the consequences or potential consequences of which are not negligible from the point of view of protection and safety.

Ionizing radiation - radiation produced during radioactive decay, nuclear transformations, or the deceleration of charged particles in a material, which, upon interacting with the medium, generates ions of various charges.

Ionizing radiation source (IRS) - a device and/or radioactive substance, or nuclear materials that emit or are capable of emitting ionizing radiation.

Key measurement point (KMP) - a location where nuclear materials can be measured to determine their flow or inventory quantity.

Material balance report - a report prepared in a prescribed format on the inventory and balance of nuclear materials for an inter-reporting period

Nuclear damage - Loss of life or personal injury; loss of or damage to property (and each of the following to the extent determined by the law of the competent court: economic loss arising from loss or damage referred to in

sub-paragraph (i) or (ii), insofar as not included in those sub-paragraphs, if incurred by a person entitled to claim in respect of such loss or damage; the costs of measures of reinstatement of impaired environment, unless such impairment is insignificant, if such measures are actually taken or to be taken, and insofar as not included in sub-paragraph (ii); loss of income deriving from an economic interest in any use or enjoyment of the environment, incurred as a result of a significant impairment of that environment, and insofar as not included in subparagraph (ii); the costs of preventive measures, and further loss or damage caused by such measures; any other economic loss, other than any caused by the impairment of the environment, if permitted by the general law on civil liability of the competent court.

Nuclear fuel cycle - All operations in the nuclear fuel cycle associated with the production of nuclear energy include the following: Mining and processing of uranium ores or thorium ores; Enrichment of uranium; Manufacture of nuclear fuel; Operation of nuclear reactors (including research reactors); Reprocessing of spent fuel; All waste management activities (including decommissioning) relating to operations associated with the production of nuclear energy; Any related research and development activities..

Nuclear incident - Any occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin which causes nuclear damage or, but only with respect to preventive measures, creates a grave and imminent threat of causing such damage.

Nuclear installation - any land-based civil nuclear power plant under its jurisdiction, including such storage, handling and treatment facilities for radioactive materials as are on the same site and are directly related to the operation of the nuclear power plant. Such a plant ceases to be a nuclear installation when all nuclear fuel elements have been removed permanently from the reactor core and have been stored safely in accordance with approved procedures, and a decommissioning programme has been agreed to by the regulatory body.

Nuclear material - Material listed in the table on the categorization of nuclear material, including the material listed in its footnotes, in Section 4 of IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 13, Nuclear Security Recommendations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities (INFCIRC/225/Revision 5).

Nuclear security - The prevention and detection of, and response to, criminal or intentional unauthorized acts involving or directed at nuclear material, other radioactive material, associated facilities or associated activities. The prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive material or their associated facilities.

Operator - Any person or organization applying for authorization or authorized and/or responsible for safety when undertaking activities or in relation to any nuclear facilities or sources of ionizing radiation. Synonymous with operating organization.

Physical protection - Measures for the protection of nuclear material or authorized facilities, designed to prevent unauthorized access or removal of fissile material or sabotage with regard to safeguards, as, for example, in the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Radioactive substances (RS) - non-nuclear material substances in any physical state containing radionuclides with activity exceeding the minimum values established by radiation safety norms and regulations.

Radioactive waste (RAW) - substances in any physical state not intended for further use, containing radionuclides with activity levels exceeding those established by legislative acts.

Radioactive waste management - all administrative and operational activities involved in the handling, pretreatment, treatment, conditioning, transport, storage and disposal of radioactive waste.

Radiation safety (RS) - the condition of protection of the public and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

Special fissionable material - Plutonium-239; uranium-233; uranium enriched in the isotopes 235 or 233; any material containing one or more of the foregoing; and such other fissionable material as the IAEA Board of Governors shall from time to time determine; but not including source material.

Source material - Uranium containing the mixture of isotopes occurring in nature; uranium depleted in the isotope 235; thorium; any of the foregoing in the form of metal, alloy, chemical compound, or concentrate; any other material containing one or more of the foregoing in such concentration as the IAEA Board of Governors shall from time to time determine; and such other material as the IAEA Board of Governors shall from time to time determine.

Spent nuclear fuel (SNF) - nuclear material that has been permanently removed from the active zone of a nuclear reactor and, based on its technical characteristics, is not intended for use in a nuclear installation.

This glossary has been prepared based on the following primary sources:

1. *IAEA Nuclear Safety and Security Glossary - Terminology Used in Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Security, Radiation Protection and Emergency Preparedness and Response. 2022 (Interim) Edition;*
2. *Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons dated 8 October 1994;*
3. *Regulatory legal acts and legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan governing the use of atomic energy, nuclear and radiation safety, physical protection, and the handling of radioactive substances and waste.*



SECTION I. INSTITUTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

1.1. Uzbekistan's international obligations

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was signed on 1 July 1968 in London, Washington, and Moscow and entered into force in 1970. Uzbekistan acceded to the treaty on 7 May 1992, thereby confirming its commitment to international nuclear safety norms. The purpose of the treaty is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, promote the use of atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, and advance negotiations on complete nuclear disarmament. Nuclear-weapon states undertake not to transfer such weapons to other countries or assist in their development, while non-nuclear-weapon states commit not to manufacture or acquire such weapons and to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to verify the peaceful nature of their nuclear activities.

For Uzbekistan, the treaty means that, pursuant to Article II, it is prohibited from producing or acquiring nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, and is obliged to accept safeguards from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to control the use of nuclear materials. At the same time, the country retains the right to conduct research and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, as well as to participate in international cooperation and technology exchange. Participation in the treaty provides international assurance that Uzbekistan's nuclear program is strictly limited to peaceful purposes, while granting the state access to the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy on a non-discriminatory basis.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) occupies a special place within the system of international treaties on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. It was adopted by the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996 (Resolution 50/245) and opened for signature on 24 September of the same year. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Treaty by ratification through the resolution of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) No. 432-I dated 25 April 1997, and it entered into force for the country on 23 August 1997.

Article XIV of the CTBT provides that if the Treaty does not enter into force within three years after the anniversary of its opening for signature, a conference may be convened at the initiative of the majority of the states that have ratified it. The purpose of such a conference is to assess the extent to which the conditions for the Treaty's entry into force have been met and to determine the measures necessary to accelerate the ratification process. Similar conferences have previously been held in Vienna in 1999, 2003, and 2007, as well as in New York in 2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023.

In the periods between conferences convened under Article XIV, the foreign ministers of the CTBT participating states usually hold special ministerial meetings dedicated to the Treaty's entry into force. These meetings take

place on the sidelines of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The following Annex 2 states have not yet ratified the Treaty:

- China
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Egypt
- India
- Iran (Islamic Republic)
- Israel
- Pakistan
- Russian Federation
- United States of America

The core provisions of the CTBT are set forth in Article I, which establishes an unconditional prohibition for participating states from conducting nuclear weapon tests and any other nuclear explosions, regardless of their purpose or location. Furthermore, the Treaty obliges participants to prohibit and prevent such activities within their jurisdiction or control, and to refrain from encouraging, promoting, or participating in the organization of nuclear tests on the territory of third countries.

Structurally, the Treaty consists of a preamble, 17 articles, two annexes, and a Protocol. Of particular significance is Annex 2, which lists the states whose ratification is a prerequisite for the Treaty's entry into force. According to its provisions, the Treaty shall enter into force 180 days after the deposit of ratification instruments by all states listed in Annex 2.

At the institutional level, the Treaty established the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) with its headquarters in Vienna. Its primary function is to ensure compliance by the participating states, which is implemented through the international monitoring system and an inspection regime. The International Monitoring System (IMS), the Technical Secretariat, and the Advisory Commission form the core of the organizational structure, enabling oversight of the prohibition on nuclear testing.

The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia was signed on 8 September 2006 in the city of Semipalatinsk, Republic of Kazakhstan, and entered into force on 21 March 2009 after its ratification by all five states of the region. The Republic of Uzbekistan signed the Treaty on the day of its conclusion and ratified it on 2 April 2007 pursuant to Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 80 "On the Ratification of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia."

The purpose of the Treaty is to establish a nuclear-weapon-free region in Central Asia, aimed at strengthening the non-proliferation regime, ensuring international peace and security, promoting cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy, and supporting the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination.

The Treaty provides for a number of obligations of the Parties set out in several articles: Article **3**, paragraph 1, explicitly states: "Each Party undertakes: **a)** not to conduct research on, develop, manufacture, stockpile or otherwise acquire, possess or exercise control over any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device in any form and anywhere; **b)** not to seek or receive any assistance in the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, possession or control of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device; **c)** not to take or encourage any actions to assist in the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition or possession of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device; **d)** not to permit on its territory: **i)** the production, acquisition, stationing, storage or use of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device; **ii)** the receipt, storage, stockpiling, installation or any other form of possession of or control over any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device; **iii)** any actions, by anyone, to assist or encourage the research, development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition or possession of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device or control over them."

In addition, Article **3**, paragraph 2, provides: "Each Party undertakes not to permit the disposal of radioactive waste from other states on its territory." In Article **5** it is established: "Each Party undertakes, in accordance with the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty:

- a)** not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion;
- b)** to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control;
- c)** to refrain from causing, encouraging, or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion."

In Article **8** it is stated: "Each Party undertakes: **a)** to use exclusively for peaceful purposes the nuclear materials and facilities that are located on its territory, under its jurisdiction or under its control anywhere; **b)** to conclude with the International Atomic Energy Agency and bring into force, if it has not yet done so, a safeguards agreement in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (INFCIRC/153 (Corr.)) and an Additional Protocol (INFCIRC/540 (Corr.)), no later than 18 months after the entry into force of this Treaty; **c)** not to provide: **(i)** source or special fissionable material, or **(ii)** equipment or material especially designed or prepared for the processing, use or production of special fissionable material to any non-

nuclear-weapon State unless that State has concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency a comprehensive safeguards agreement and an Additional Protocol thereto."

Article **9** obliges each Party to maintain effective physical protection standards for nuclear materials and facilities: "Each Party undertakes to maintain effective physical protection standards for nuclear materials, facilities, and equipment to prevent their unauthorized use, handling, or theft."

For the Republic of Uzbekistan, these provisions establish its nuclear-weapon-free status. Pursuant to Article **3**, the participant is not permitted to conduct research, develop, manufacture, acquire, store, or station nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices on its territory, and is obliged not to permit the disposal of radioactive waste from foreign states.

In accordance with Article **5**, Uzbekistan is not allowed to carry out nuclear weapon test explosions or other nuclear devices and must prevent such actions within its jurisdiction.

In accordance with Article **8**, Uzbekistan must use nuclear materials exclusively for peaceful purposes and conclude safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency, including the Additional Protocol.

In accordance with Article **9**, the Republic of Uzbekistan is obliged to ensure the physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities to prevent unauthorized access, use, or theft.

Thus, this international instrument legally establishes Uzbekistan's nuclear-weapon-free status and defines its obligations within the regional and global non-proliferation system.

The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was adopted on 13 April 2005. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 9 April 2008 No. 146, adopted by the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) on 23 January 2008 and approved by the Senate on 27 March 2008, which entered into force on 21 April 2008.

The document is a multilateral international treaty aimed at preventing and suppressing acts of terrorism involving the use of nuclear material, radioactive substances, and related facilities. The Convention establishes universal norms of criminal justice, providing for the criminalization of acts related to nuclear terrorism, the establishment of the jurisdiction of the participating states, as well as the development of international cooperation in the areas of extradition and mutual legal assistance.

According to paragraph 4 of Article **7** of the Convention, each State Party is obliged to designate a competent authority and a point of contact responsible for sending and receiving information within the framework of cooperation for the prevention and suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The Republic of Uzbekistan, in fulfilling this obligation, has notified that the designated authority is the National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan (currently – the State Security Service).



Of particular importance is Article 9 of the Convention, which addresses the jurisdiction of the States Parties. It requires states to establish jurisdiction over the offenses defined in Article 2, in particular, if the offense is committed on their territory, on board a ship or aircraft flying their flag, or by a national of that state.

Article 16 of the Convention also deserves special attention, according to which refusal to extradite or provide legal assistance is permitted only in exceptional cases related to the risk of discrimination against a person based on race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, or political opinion. In its notification, Uzbekistan emphasized that the provisions of Article 16 should be applied in a manner that ensures the inevitability of accountability for offenses covered by the Convention while maintaining the effectiveness of international cooperation.

The dispute settlement procedure is governed by Article 23 of the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. In particular, paragraph 1 provides for the possibility of referring a dispute to the International Court of Justice, whereas paragraph 2 allows for a reservation regarding non-acceptance of the binding nature of this mechanism. The Republic of Uzbekistan exercised this right and stated in its declaration that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 23.

Thus, by acceding to the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, Uzbekistan confirmed its commitment to strengthening international security and establishing an effective legal framework to counter nuclear terrorism. At the same time, the country exercised its right to make specific declarations and reservations.

The Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage was adopted on 21 May 1963 with the aim of establishing a uniform regime of civil liability for nuclear damage to third parties. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 1086 “On the Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (Vienna, 21 May 1963)” dated 26 September 2025, adopted by the Legislative Chamber on 27 May 2025 and approved by the Senate on 26 June 2025. Subsequently, the provisions of the Convention became legally binding for Uzbekistan in 2025, marking an important step in the development of the national legal framework for the use of atomic energy and the protection of the rights of victims of potential nuclear damage.

The purpose of the Convention is to establish an international legal mechanism that provides minimum standards for fair compensation and financial protection against nuclear damage, while simultaneously promoting the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and fostering friendly relations among nations. In particular, subparagraph (i) of paragraph 1 of Article I defines the term “nuclear installation,” which includes a nuclear reactor (excluding reactors on ships and aircraft), facilities for the use and reprocessing of nuclear fuel, as well as storage sites for

nuclear material. Amendments introduced by the 1997 Protocol expanded this definition to include other installations containing nuclear fuel or radioactive waste. It is also established that the provisions of the Convention do not apply to installations used for non-peaceful purposes.

Of particular importance for the application of the Convention are the provisions defining key terms such as “operator of a nuclear installation,” “nuclear damage,” and “nuclear incident.” According to subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article I, an operator is recognized as the person designated or acknowledged by the state as responsible for the installation. In subparagraph (k) of paragraph 1 of Article I, nuclear damage is defined as death, bodily injury, loss or damage to property caused by the radioactive properties of nuclear fuel or waste, as well as the effects of ionizing radiation.

An important provision is paragraph 4 of Article IV, which establishes the presumption of indivisibility of nuclear damage: if the damage is caused simultaneously by a nuclear incident and by an event of another nature, and it is impossible to separate the non-nuclear portion of the damage, all the damage is considered nuclear. This approach strengthens the protection of victims and eliminates legal uncertainty in matters of compensation.

The scope of application of the Convention has also undergone changes. According to paragraph 1 of Article XI, the Convention initially applied to damage caused by incidents within the territory of the States Parties, or incidents outside their territory provided that the installation was under the jurisdiction of a State Party (paragraph 2 of Article XI). The 1997 Protocol (Article 3) established the principle of universal applicability: the provisions of the Convention apply to nuclear damage regardless of where it occurs. However, states retain the right to exclude damage caused within the territory of countries that are not Parties to the Convention if they do not provide reciprocal benefits.

The Convention assigns liability exclusively to the operator of a nuclear installation (Article II), which excludes the possibility of holding other persons responsible and ensures clarity in matters of compensation. This provision is of key importance for the legal order, as it establishes a single subject of liability, thereby facilitating victims' access to justice.

The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) was adopted on 25 June 1998 in Aarhus, Denmark, and represents one of the key international treaties in the field of environmental democracy. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention pursuant to Law No. 1045 dated 11 March 2025, adopted by the Legislative Chamber on 11 December 2024 and approved by the Senate on 22 February 2025. Uzbekistan's accession to this instrument marked an important step toward the institutional strengthening of the principles of transparency, accountability, and public participation in environmental matters, including the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects.

The Aarhus Convention enshrines three fundamental rights: the right of everyone to access environmental information, the right to participate in decision-making processes affecting the environment, and the right of access to justice in cases of violation of the first two rights. In the context of the construction of a nuclear power plant, Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention are of particular importance, as they establish the procedures for public participation in decision-making on specific activities and environmental programs.

According to Article 6 of the Convention, the States Parties are obliged to ensure public participation in the decision-making process on matters related to the activities listed in Annex I. This list explicitly includes the construction of nuclear power plants, as well as the reprocessing and storage of nuclear fuel and radioactive waste. Thus, any decisions concerning the design, construction, or decommissioning of nuclear installations are subject to a mandatory public consultation procedure. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 6, the public must be informed in a timely and adequate manner about the planned activity, have access to the relevant environmental information, and be able to submit comments either in writing or during public hearings. The results of public participation, as required by paragraph 8 of Article 6, must be taken into account when making the final decision, and the public must be promptly informed of its content and the reasons for it.

Furthermore, Article 7 of the Convention requires States to ensure public participation in the preparation of plans, programs, and policies related to the environment. This means that not only individual projects but also overall strategies in the field of nuclear energy, including siting, licensing, and operation of nuclear installations, are subject to public review.

In practical terms, the provisions of the Aarhus Convention have already been reflected in Uzbekistan's national plans. According to a statement made by the head of the Directorate for the Construction of the Nuclear Power Plant, Abdujamil Kalmuratov, on 6 October 2025, public hearings on the construction of the nuclear power plant in the Farish district of the Jizzakh region are scheduled for November–December 2025. The regulations for the hearings will be developed by the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change, with the participation of representatives from the Jizzakh Regional Khokimiyat. The format of the hearings provides for questions and answers, open voting, and the participation of journalists, experts, and representatives of foreign states.

The Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) was adopted on 17 June 1994 in Vienna and entered into force on 24 October 1996. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to the Convention on 14 April 2025, and it entered into force within the country on 13 July 2025. Accession to this instrument marked an important step in integrating Uzbekistan into the global nuclear safety framework based on the norms and standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The objectives of the Convention, set out in its Preamble and Article 1, are to achieve and maintain a high level

of nuclear safety worldwide, to prevent accidents with radiological consequences, and to protect human life, health, and the environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. The Convention is also aimed at establishing and maintaining effective protective measures at nuclear installations and ensuring preparedness to mitigate the consequences in the event of nuclear or radiological incidents.

The CNS became the first international legal framework establishing mandatory nuclear safety measures for all states operating or planning to operate nuclear installations. Its adoption in 1994 was a direct consequence of the two major nuclear accidents of the 20th century the Three Mile Island accident (USA, 1979) and the Chernobyl disaster (USSR, 1986) which highlighted the need for international coordination of principles regarding responsibility, regulation, and oversight in the field of nuclear safety.

The obligations of the States Parties to the Convention are based on the fundamental safety principles of the IAEA. These obligations cover both institutional and technical aspects:

- the establishment and operation of an independent regulatory body with sufficient authority, resources, and autonomy;
- the existence of a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework governing nuclear and radiation safety;
- adherence to safety principles at all stages of the nuclear installation's life cycle from site selection, design, and construction to operation and decommissioning;
- provision of adequate financial and human resources, safety assessment and verification systems, quality management, and emergency preparedness.

An important mechanism for the implementation of the Convention is the process of peer review. In accordance with Articles 5 and 20 of the Convention, each State Party is obliged to submit national reports on the fulfillment of its obligations, which are reviewed at regular Review Meetings. These meetings allow states to exchange experiences, analyze best practices, and develop recommendations to enhance nuclear safety.

The implementation system of the CNS is based on three IAEA guiding documents, providing methodological support to the States Parties:

1. Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/573) establish the procedures for conducting meetings, financial aspects, and the organizational framework for peer reviews.
2. Guidelines Regarding the Review Process under the Convention on Nuclear Safety (INFCIRC/571) describe the structure and stages of the peer review of reports, including the procedures for submitting questions and comments between states.
3. Guidelines Regarding National Reports (INFCIRC/572) define the content and format of national reports, including descriptions of legislation, regulatory bodies, licensing and oversight practices, as well as emergency preparedness measures.



The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident was adopted on 26 September 1986 at a special session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to it on 14 April 2025, and the Convention entered into force within the country on 14 May 2025. The adoption of this instrument marked an important step toward strengthening the national radiation safety system and developing mechanisms for international cooperation in preventing and mitigating the consequences of nuclear accidents.

The Convention was developed as a consequence of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, which revealed the critical need for an operational and institutionalized mechanism for international information exchange during radiological incidents. Its primary objective is to ensure the timely notification of states and international organizations about nuclear accidents that may have transboundary radiological consequences, as well as to facilitate measures to protect populations, the environment, and property from the effects of ionizing radiation.

According to Article 1 of the Convention, it applies to any accident related to activities or installations under the jurisdiction of a State Party if such an accident has resulted or may result in a transboundary release of radioactive material capable of affecting the radiation safety of other states. Such installations include nuclear reactors, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, radioactive waste management facilities, as well as the transportation and storage of nuclear fuel and isotopes. The Convention also covers the use of radioisotopes in industry, medicine, agriculture, and scientific research, as well as their application on space objects.

In accordance with Article 2, a State Party is obliged to immediately notify the IAEA and those states that have been or may be affected by radiation about the nature, time, and location of the nuclear accident. Furthermore, it must promptly provide all available information necessary to minimize the consequences of the incident. Articles 4 and 5 detail the functions of the IAEA as the central coordinating body, ensuring the dissemination of the received information to other states and international organizations. The information to be provided includes data on the causes and progression of the accident, characteristics of the radioactive release, meteorological and hydrological conditions, results of radiation monitoring, protective measures taken, and forecasts of the situation's development.

Article 7 assigns to each State Party the obligation to designate competent authorities and contact points responsible for sending and receiving notifications and to ensure their continuous readiness for information exchange. These authorities are included in a unified registry maintained by the IAEA and updated as information is received from the States Parties. The Convention also provides for the possibility of consultations between the states and the Agency (Article 6), as well as for the IAEA's assistance to states without their own nuclear programs in establishing radiation monitoring systems in border areas (Article 8).

The Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (dated 8

October 1994) constitutes a fundamental international instrument establishing a mechanism for monitoring and verifying the nuclear activities of the state. Its objective is to ensure that all nuclear material within the territory of Uzbekistan is used exclusively for peaceful purposes and is not diverted to the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Within the framework of obligations under this Agreement, Uzbekistan undertakes to establish and maintain a national system for accounting and control of all nuclear material, as explicitly set forth in Article 7. In turn, the Agency is granted the right to verify the accuracy of this data through independent measurements and observations. Article 9 provides the procedure for the appointment of Agency inspectors, for which the consent of Uzbekistan is required, emphasizing respect for national sovereignty while maintaining the binding nature of the inspection mechanism. Particular attention is also given to the international legal status of the Agency's representatives: pursuant to Article 10, Uzbekistan grants the inspectors and officials of the Agency privileges and immunities similar to those established in the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the IAEA.

Provisions of Article 12 are of significant importance, establishing that Uzbekistan is obliged to notify the Agency in advance of any transfer of nuclear material from the country. The Agency ceases the application of safeguards only after the recipient State has formally assumed responsibility for the material, ensuring continuity of control. In turn, Article 40 enshrines the Agency's obligation to maintain a unified inventory of all nuclear material in Uzbekistan based on the State's reports and inspection data.

The Agreement also provides for a set of reporting obligations. In accordance with Articles 58 and 59, Uzbekistan is required to submit reports on nuclear material to the Agency in one of the Agency's official languages, as well as to maintain accounting records for no less than five years, as established in Article 52. To facilitate inspection activities, Uzbekistan, pursuant to Article 51, takes measures to ensure ease of verification of accounting data, particularly if they are maintained in a language other than one of the Agency's working languages.

Alongside this, the Agreement establishes the Agency's right to conduct various types of inspections. Thus, Article 70 provides for the possibility of special inspections aimed at verifying initial reports, changes in the situation, or the quantity and composition of nuclear material during its transfer. Article 71 regulates the conduct of routine inspections, the purpose of which is to verify the consistency of reports with accounting records, as well as to determine the location and characteristics of all nuclear material under safeguards.

Of particular importance for the international trade of nuclear materials is Article 91, which obliges Uzbekistan to notify the Agency of any intended transfer of nuclear material from the country if the quantity exceeds one effective kilogram, or if several smaller consignments together amount to more than one effective kilogram. This provision ensures transparency in the movement of nuclear materials and prevents the possibility of their unauthorized circulation.

The Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/540) was signed by the Republic of Uzbekistan on 22 September 1998 within the framework of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Its purpose is to expand the standard safeguards regime provided for by the INFCIRC/508 agreement by introducing additional transparency mechanisms. The document establishes obligations for the State to provide the IAEA with broader access to information on nuclear activities, including scientific research, production capacities, and development plans, even if they are not directly related to nuclear material.

By signing this Protocol, Uzbekistan undertook, in particular, to provide expanded declarations and to grant IAEA inspectors access to facilities and information that go beyond the scope of the basic Safeguards Agreement. According to the provisions of the Protocol, inspectors are granted the ability to conduct both routine and ad hoc inspections, aimed at identifying possible discrepancies in reporting or covert activities. Of particular importance are the articles regulating the procedure for providing information on the production and export of dual-use equipment and technologies, which enhances transparency and prevents the risk of their use for unauthorized purposes.

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Atomic Energy Community on Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy was signed on 6 October 2003 and entered into force on 1 August 2004. Its objective is set forth in Article 1, which explicitly states that the Agreement aims to “ensure maximum cooperation between the Parties in the peaceful use of atomic energy on the basis of mutual benefit and reciprocity, without prejudice to the rights of the competent authorities of each Party.” Article 2 outlines the main areas of cooperation: nuclear safety (Article 3), scientific research and development (Article 6), conditions for trade in nuclear materials and services in the nuclear fuel sector (Article 7), as well as other areas of mutual interest (Article 8).

In the section devoted to nuclear safety, Article 3 establishes that “cooperation encourages and promotes the improvement of nuclear safety, including the identification and application of scientifically justified and internationally recognized nuclear safety standards.” Article 4 defines the forms of cooperation, which include “the exchange of technical information and data through activities such as lectures, visits, seminars, technical meetings,” as well as “equal participation in joint research and activities.” In turn, Article 5 stipulates that the obligations of the Parties under this chapter depend on the availability of necessary financial resources, and the expenses are borne by the Party incurring them. For Uzbekistan, this entails aligning its national regulatory system with international safety standards, as well as readiness to exchange information and participate in joint scientific projects.

Particular attention in the document is given to the regulation of nuclear material handling. According to paragraph 1 of Article 7, “nuclear material transferred

between the Parties directly or through third countries falls under the scope of this Agreement from the moment it enters the territorial jurisdiction of the receiving Party.” Paragraph 5 of this Article contains a key obligation: “Nuclear material shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not be used for the creation, research, or development of nuclear explosive devices.” For the Republic of Uzbekistan, this entails the responsibility to ensure the application of IAEA safeguards on its territory in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement of 8 October 1994 (INFCIRC/508) and the Additional Protocol of 22 September 1998 (INFCIRC/540).

Article 7 also establishes requirements for the physical protection of transferred materials. Paragraph 5(d) emphasizes that protective measures shall comply with international standards, including the “IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material,” INFCIRC/254/Rev.5/Part 1, the recommendations of INFCIRC/225/Rev.4, as well as the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (INFCIRC/274/Rev.1). For Uzbekistan, this explicitly entails the obligation to implement these standards within the national regulatory system, ensuring that the transport and storage of nuclear materials meet international safety standards.

An important provision is also paragraph 7 of Article 7, which establishes that “notwithstanding the suspension or termination of this Agreement for any reason, the application of paragraph 5 shall remain in force, but not for more than 10 years from the date of suspension or termination of this Agreement.”

Particular attention in the Agreement is given to intellectual property matters. Article 10 establishes that the use and dissemination of information, as well as intellectual property rights, are governed by the Annexes, which constitute an integral part of the document. Annex 1 sets out the “basic principles for the allocation of intellectual property rights,” in particular the provision that “all research conducted under this Agreement constitutes joint research,” and its management is carried out through the Technology Management Plan. Additionally, Annex 1, Section II, stipulates that copyright is governed in accordance with the 1971 Berne Convention, ensuring international protection of scientific and literary works created within the framework of the cooperation.

Thus, the Agreement with Euratom establishes a comprehensive legal framework for integrating Uzbekistan into the international regime for the peaceful use of atomic energy. It obliges the state to apply international safety standards (Articles 3–5), strictly regulate the trade of nuclear materials and ensure their use solely for peaceful purposes (Article 7), as well as implement intellectual property protection mechanisms, including the Technology Management Plan and the confidential information regime (Article 10 and Annex 1 to the Agreement). As a result, Uzbekistan not only gains access to modern scientific and technical achievements but also assumes obligations to strengthen the national legal system in the field of nuclear regulation and to protect the outcomes of joint research activities.



The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management was adopted on 5 September 1997. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to this Convention by adopting the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 186 on 11 December 2008 "On Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Vienna, 5 September 1997)," which was adopted by the Legislative Chamber on 10 September 2008 and approved by the Senate on 5 December 2008, entering into force on 23 December 2008.

The Convention is aimed at achieving and maintaining a high level of safety in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste worldwide. It provides for the strengthening of national measures and the development of international cooperation, ensuring effective protection of individuals, society, and the environment from potential hazards at all stages of management—both in the present and in the future. The Convention also aims to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and to minimize their impact if they occur, while simultaneously ensuring that the needs of the current generation are met without compromising the capabilities of future generations.

According to Article 4 of the Convention, each contracting party is obliged to take measures to ensure the proper protection of individuals, society, and the environment from radiological risks at all stages of spent fuel management, including paying due attention to issues of criticality and residual heat removal, maintaining the generation of associated radioactive waste at the lowest reasonably achievable level in accordance with the adopted national policy on the fuel cycle, and taking into account the interdependence of the various stages of management. Each Party shall ensure effective protection through the application of national methods approved by the regulatory authority, corresponding to internationally recognized criteria and standards, and shall take into account biological, chemical, and other risks associated with spent fuel management. Parties must also strive to avoid actions whose consequences for future generations could be more severe than those acceptable for the present generation.

The Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency was adopted on 26 September 1986. The Republic of Uzbekistan acceded to this Convention on 30 July 2025, and it entered into force on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 29 August 2025.

According to Article 2 of the Convention, a State Party in need of assistance in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency—regardless of whether it occurs on its territory, under its jurisdiction or control, or outside thereof—has the right to request such assistance from

any other State Party directly or through the IAEA, as well as from the Agency itself or, if necessary, from other international organizations. The requesting State determines the scope and type of assistance needed and, whenever possible, provides information enabling the assisting party to ascertain the extent to which it can meet the request. If precise determination is not possible, the parties shall jointly agree on the scope and type of assistance. A State Party receiving the request is obliged to promptly inform whether it can provide assistance, as well as specify its scope and conditions. States Parties shall pre-identify experts, equipment, and materials they are prepared to provide, together with the conditions of assistance, and notify the IAEA accordingly. Each State Party may also request assistance related to medical support or the temporary relocation of persons affected by the accident. Upon receiving a request from a State Party or Member State, the Agency provides the resources allocated for these purposes, promptly forwards the request to other States and international organizations possessing the necessary resources, and, at the request of the requesting State, coordinates the international provision of assistance.

The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, adopted on 26 October 1979, to which Uzbekistan acceded by the Resolution of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 556-I dated 26 December 1997, and which entered into force on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11 March 1998, represents a key international legal instrument aimed at preventing acts of unlawful trafficking, theft, and sabotage of nuclear materials, as well as ensuring their reliable physical protection. Unlike the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which focuses primarily on controlling proliferation and guaranteeing the peaceful use of atomic energy, this Convention regulates a narrower but exceptionally important aspect of international nuclear security — the provision of physical protection.

The scope of the Convention is defined in Article 2, which establishes that its provisions apply exclusively to nuclear material and nuclear facilities used for peaceful purposes and do not cover military objects. At the same time, States Parties are granted the right to independently determine and maintain the regime of physical protection on their territory, reflecting respect for the principle of state sovereignty. Further development of these provisions is set forth in Article 2A, which introduces key obligations of States to establish and maintain an effective system of physical protection. Particular importance is attached to the inclusion in the text of the Convention of the so-called "Fundamental Principles of Physical Protection," which cover a wide range of issues — from the responsibility of the State and licensees to the necessity of developing a safety culture, implementing protection, and ensuring quality.

Provisions concerning the international transport of nuclear material occupy an important place. According to Article **3**, States Parties are obliged to take measures to ensure the protection of nuclear material in transit in accordance with the levels set out in Annex I. Article **4**, in particular, establishes the obligations and conditions for the export, import, and transit of nuclear materials. Thus, the Convention establishes uniform standards for the international trade of nuclear materials, eliminating the possibility of their movement without proper protection.

The Convention also introduces important mechanisms for cooperation between States. Article **5** establishes the obligation of States Parties to assist one another in cases of theft, unlawful seizure, or threats of sabotage involving nuclear material or nuclear facilities. This provision strengthens the collective nature of nuclear security, envisaging the exchange of information, coordination of actions, and even assistance in the return of unlawfully removed material. In this context, special attention is given to information exchange; Article **6** defines the conditions for its disclosure if such disclosure could compromise the security of a State or the protection of nuclear facilities.

A special place in the structure of the Convention is occupied by Article **7**, which establishes a broad list of criminally punishable acts. These include the unlawful acquisition, use, and transfer of nuclear material, theft, sabotage, as well as threats to commit such acts. Moreover, the Convention explicitly provides for criminal liability for organizing and leading criminal groups, as well as for complicity in such acts. Thus, the document creates a comprehensive criminal law protection regime, which is complemented by Articles **8–12** regulating issues of jurisdiction. Of particular importance in this section is Article **11A**, which excludes the possibility of interpreting the aforementioned offenses as "political," thereby preventing abuse of grounds for refusing the extradition of an offender.

The Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted on 8 July 2005 in Vienna, is aimed at significantly expanding the scope of the original 1979 Convention, including the introduction of obligations for the physical protection not only of nuclear material during international transport but also of nuclear installations, as well as nuclear material used for peaceful purposes within a State.

For the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Amendment entered into force on 8 May 2016, thereby establishing the State's international legal obligations to ensure a heightened level of nuclear safety and physical protection in accordance with the updated requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). According to paragraph 1 of the Amendment, the official title of the Convention, "Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material," adopted on 26 October 1979, is replaced with the following:

"Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities."

The change of the title reflects a fundamental expansion of the areas covered by the regulation and emphasizes the necessity of ensuring the physical protection not only of nuclear material but also of the infrastructure associated with its use, storage, and processing.

The Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, approved on 23 October 1956 and entering into force on 29 July 1957, constitutes one of the key documents defining the international legal framework for the regulation of the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The importance of the Statute is confirmed by the fact that it is expressly referenced in international treaties aimed at strengthening global and regional security.

Paragraph A of Article **III** of the Statute outlines the core powers of the Agency. Paragraph 1 establishes the authority to promote research activities and the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including acting as an intermediary in the provision of services or the supply of materials. Paragraph 2 is aimed at providing States with the necessary services and equipment for the implementation of peaceful nuclear programs, with special consideration given to the needs of developing regions. Paragraphs 3 and 4 emphasize scientific and technical cooperation and the exchange of specialists, thereby ensuring the transfer of knowledge for the peaceful development of nuclear energy. Of paramount importance is paragraph 5, which introduces a safeguards system designed to prevent the use of materials and technologies under the auspices of the IAEA for military purposes. These safeguards, at the request of the parties, may extend not only to bilateral and multilateral agreements but also to the national activities of States in the field of atomic energy. The subsequent provisions of the Article establish the Agency's authority in the development and application of safety standards (paragraph 6), as well as the rights to acquire and create facilities and equipment for the fulfillment of the functions entrusted to the Agency (paragraph 7).

1.2. International standards of Nuclear Safety and Security

The "Nuclear Security Recommendations on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5) were adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2012 in Vienna. The document establishes internationally recognized standards for ensuring the physical protection of nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, as well as regulates the obligations of States regarding the organization of a reliable system to counter threats of unauthorized access, theft, and sabotage. It should be noted that, according to paragraph 6 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the construction of a nuclear power plant on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the design of the physical protection system for the main and auxiliary facilities of the nuclear power plant is carried out in accordance with the IAEA document INFCIRC/225/Rev.5 (2012).

Thus, paragraph 3.4 of INFCIRC/225/Rev.5 directly obliges States to establish such a physical protection regime that would ensure that nuclear materials remain at all times under the jurisdiction and continuous control of competent authorities. At the same time, the moment of transfer of responsibility for physical protection between States or carriers must be clearly defined and duly recorded by the competent organizations.

Paragraph 3.7 imposes on States the obligation to conclude written arrangements regarding responsibility for physical protection measures during the international transport of Category I nuclear materials and other particularly significant materials. This paragraph emphasizes the need to maintain constant communication between the competent authorities of the sending State, the receiving State, transit States, and the State of the flag of the means of transport. In addition, a mandatory element is the protection of sensitive information related to the transport, which excludes its use to the detriment of national and international security.

Paragraph 4.2 establishes the obligation of States to ensure protection levels based on the classification of nuclear materials according to their suitability for the creation of a nuclear explosive device. At the same time, this paragraph obliges States to take into account the radiological hazard of potential material dispersion, emphasizing that the threats are not only military in nature but also environmental and humanitarian.

Paragraph 4.15 provides that States must introduce measures for detecting unauthorized intrusion, as well as ensure sufficient guard and response forces to prevent incidents related to breaches of physical nuclear security. This underscores the need for constant readiness to implement measures to counter threats.

Paragraph 4.26 explicitly establishes the obligation of the State to ensure that access to protected areas is granted only to individuals who possess official authorization and have undergone a reliability check. States are obliged to limit the number of such persons to the minimum necessary and to ensure that temporary

personnel and visitors remain in the area exclusively when accompanied by authorized staff.

Paragraph 5.23 obliges States to introduce mandatory inspection measures for vehicles, persons, and packages at the entry and access points to protected areas, using specialized technical means for detecting nuclear materials, metals, and explosives. In addition, this paragraph restricts the entry of vehicles into the protected area, allowing it only in specially designated parking zones, which reduces the risks of unauthorized access and simplifies control.

The Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material, 2018 edition (Specific Safety Requirements No. SSR-6 (Rev. 1)). According to paragraph 5(d) of Article 7 of the Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) of 2003, international transport of nuclear materials must comply with the "IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (TS-R-1/ST-1)," which were subsequently replaced by the updated document — **No. SSR-6 (Rev. 1), 2018 edition**. This document reflects the evolution of international standards and establishes modern requirements for the safe transport of radioactive substances.

Paragraph 103 emphasizes that the allocation of responsibilities for ensuring safety during the transport of radioactive material depends on national legislation and on the international conventions to which the States are parties. Thus, SSR-6 (Rev. 1) establishes a unified list of measures but leaves it to the discretion of States to determine which authorities will implement them.

The purpose of the document is formulated in paragraph 104: to ensure the protection of people, property, and the environment from the effects of ionizing radiation during the transport of radioactive material. To this end, specific measures are established:

- a) containment of the radioactive contents;
- b) control of external dose rate;
- c) prevention of criticality;
- d) prevention of damage due to heat generation.

Compliance with these requirements is ensured, first, through the application of a differentiated approach to establishing limits on the contents of packages and conveyances, as well as to the regulatory design requirements for packages, depending on the degree of hazard of the radioactive contents. Second, the fulfillment of the requirements is achieved by establishing rules concerning the design, operation, and maintenance of package assemblies, taking into account the characteristics of the radioactive contents. Third, an essential condition is the application of administrative control measures, including, where necessary, approval procedures by the competent authorities. An additional level of protection is ensured through the planning and preparation of emergency response measures aimed at protecting human health, property, and the environment.

During the transport of radioactive materials, the safety of the population, the protection of property, and the preservation of the environment are ensured through strict compliance with these Regulations, while confidence in their implementation is provided by management systems and compliance monitoring programs.

The standard requirements for registries of sources of ionizing radiation were developed by the Commission of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member states on the peaceful use of atomic energy and approved in 2015. The Republic of Uzbekistan, as a CIS member state, takes this document into account in its national practice for handling sources of ionizing radiation.

The purpose of the document is to establish unified approaches for the creation and maintenance of national registries of sources of ionizing radiation, which is necessary to ensure their safety and security, as well as to enhance the efficiency of information exchange when such sources are transferred between CIS member states. Among its objectives is the harmonization of national accounting systems with the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in accordance with paragraph 1.2 of the standard requirements, including the provisions of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

The obligations of the states are of a recommendatory nature according to paragraph 1.3 of the standard requirements and provide for the creation of national registries with mandatory recording of the technical characteristics of the sources, information about owners and holders, details on the decommissioning of sources, and their subsequent placement. States must also ensure the possibility of information exchange within the CIS framework, providing data on the status of their national registries and their compliance with the standard requirements.

For the Republic of Uzbekistan, these standard requirements mean that it should take the provisions of the document into account when developing and maintaining its national registry. In particular, in accordance with the section "Standard Requirements for Registries," Uzbekistan must record the technical characteristics of sources, including radionuclides, activity, service life, and category according to the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as maintain a chronological record of all owners and holders of the sources. Furthermore, in accordance with the concluding section on information submission, Uzbekistan must ensure the exchange of information with other CIS member states regarding the accounting and movement of sources of ionizing radiation.

1.3. Participation in CIS regional initiatives

The Republic of Uzbekistan, as a member state of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), actively participates in the formation and development of the legal and institutional framework for cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. One of the key mechanisms for such interaction is the Interstate Council on Atomic Energy of the CIS and its structural bodies,

including the CIS Executive Committee and the Council of CIS Heads of Governments, within which coordinated programs and projects are implemented aimed at ensuring radiation and nuclear safety, developing scientific and technical potential, as well as harmonizing national approaches to regulation in the field of atomic energy. Uzbekistan participates in multilateral CIS agreements, such as:

1. Agreement between the CIS Member States on the Fundamental Principles of Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy (dated 26 June 1992). According to Article 2, the cooperation concerns the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and may include, in particular:

- implementation of joint industrial activities,
- joint ownership or operation of nuclear installations, equipment, industrial property facilities, and industrial enterprises,
- conducting joint measures for the prevention of nuclear accidents and the mitigation of their consequences,
- provision and exchange of information, in particular regarding nuclear safety, operation of nuclear installations, emergency planning, environmental protection, and personnel training,
- coordination and conduct of joint scientific research and experimental design work,
- provision of experts, personnel training, and technical and educational-methodological support for personnel preparation,
- transfer of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, installations, equipment, and technology,
- development and implementation of joint projects, including in areas such as electricity generation, industry, agriculture, and medicine,
- exploration and development of uranium deposits.

2. Agreement on Information Interaction of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States Regarding the Movement of Radioactive Sources (dated June 7, 2016). According to Article 1, the subject of the Agreement is to ensure information interaction among the Member States of this Agreement during the transfer of radioactive sources from the territory of one state to the territory of another state, where the radionuclide activity is equal to or exceeds the threshold values of categories 1 and 2 as specified in the Annex to the Agreement.

3. Concept of Cooperation of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Management of Hazardous Waste and the Remediation of Sites with Legacy Environmental Damage (dated May 24, 2024) – The document defines the goals, principles, and objectives for joint activities of the CIS countries to establish a system for the safe management of hazardous waste and the remediation of past environmental damage.

The Concept aims to develop a legal framework for cooperation, harmonize national laws in accordance with international standards, such as the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal dated March 22, 1989, and create infrastructure for waste processing.



The main tasks for developing cooperation among the CIS member states in the management of hazardous waste are:

- Establishment and development of a legal framework to ensure effective cooperation in the management of hazardous waste and the remediation of sites with legacy environmental damage.
- Improvement of national regulatory systems for hazardous waste management and remediation of contaminated sites, including mechanisms for state supervision, licensing, and conducting expert assessments.
- Promotion of the creation and modernization of infrastructure for hazardous waste management, including through technological, scientific-technical, and other relevant cooperation.
- Consolidation of scientific potential and conduct of joint research aimed at the development and implementation of advanced and/or best available technologies in this field.
- Development and implementation of measures aimed at knowledge exchange, enhancing the training and qualification of experts and specialists.
- Ensuring safety in hazardous waste management through the development of appropriate organizational, technical, and other measures.
- Increasing awareness among stakeholders about joint actions in this area, participating in relevant international negotiations (including under the Basel Convention), and fostering a culture of responsible production and consumption.
- Facilitating the achievement of sustainable development goals in the CIS member states.

4. Agreement on Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States Member States to Ensure Preparedness for a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency and Mutual Assistance in its Consequence Management (dated 2 November 2018) – this document establishes the legal and organizational framework for cooperation among CIS countries to provide prompt assistance in the event of nuclear and radiological incidents to protect the population and the environment. The Agreement defines the procedures for requesting assistance, the conditions for its provision, as well as the status and rules of conduct for deployed emergency response teams. In addition, the document regulates financial matters, including reimbursement of expenses, and provides legal guarantees and immunities for personnel involved in emergency consequence management.

5. Agreement on the Convergence of Approaches to Legal and Regulatory Frameworks, Technical Regulation, Conformity Assessment, Standardization, Accreditation, and Metrological Support in the Field of Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy (dated 26 May 2017) is a multilateral international treaty. Its objective is to implement coordinated policies and harmonize approaches of the participating states in the field of technical regulation of atomic energy use. The Agreement establishes general

principles for the harmonization of national requirements for products and processes in the nuclear sector, based on IAEA safety standards. The document also lays the foundation for mutual recognition of accreditation and conformity assessment results to ensure consistency in measurements and a high level of safety culture.

6. Priority Action Plan for 2024–2029 on the Implementation of the Concept of Cooperation of the CIS Member States in the Management of Hazardous Waste and the Remediation of Legacy Environmental Damage (dated 24 May 2024). This plan establishes concrete steps for the practical implementation of the previously adopted Concept, beginning with the formation of a working group in 2024 to coordinate efforts. Key activities of the plan include the assessment of national infrastructures for hazardous waste management, harmonization of the legal and regulatory frameworks of the participating states, and the exchange of experience in best available technologies and scientific research. Special attention is given to the development of human resources through the creation of joint educational programs and the dissemination of information to all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development goals.

1.4. Bilateral Agreements

The Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation are building a strategic partnership in the peaceful use of nuclear energy based on bilateral agreements and intergovernmental programs. The cooperation covers the development of nuclear infrastructure, construction and operation of nuclear energy facilities, personnel training, scientific and technical collaboration, as well as ensuring nuclear and radiation safety.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has signed the following bilateral documents with the Russian Federation:

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy (Tashkent, December 22, 1997) – regulates the supply, handling, and joint use of nuclear materials and technologies between the countries. It is established that:

- Imported from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Uzbekistan nuclear materials, equipment, and technologies, as well as substances and installations produced using them, shall not be used for military purposes and remain under IAEA safeguards;
- Nuclear materials transferred from the Russian Federation shall not undergo additional enrichment or reprocessing without a separate agreement;
- Spent nuclear fuel supplied by the Russian Federation shall be sent back to the Russian Federation for reprocessing, with subsequent return of radioactive waste to Uzbekistan;
- Supplied materials and equipment shall be provided with physical protection at a level not lower than IAEA standards;

- The Parties shall cooperate in the mutual recognition of norms and certificates on nuclear and radiation safety;
- Customs control shall be exercised, and the transit of nuclear materials and specialists shall be ensured;
- A joint commission shall be established to approve specific projects and monitor the implementation of the agreement;
- Competent authorities: in Uzbekistan – State Committee “Uzsanoatkonteksnazorat” (currently: Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan); in Russia – Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy, Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Supervision.

2. Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes (Tashkent, December 29, 2017) – a framework agreement on comprehensive cooperation in nuclear energy. The Parties cooperate in the following areas:

- assistance in the creation and improvement of the infrastructure of the nuclear energy sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including the system of state regulatory safety, in accordance with international recommendations;
- development, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, research reactors, and other nuclear installations;
- exploration and development of uranium deposits with the study of the mineral resource base of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the purposes of developing its nuclear industry;
- supply of nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants, research reactors, and other nuclear installations;
- management of radioactive waste, excluding its import into the territory of any of the Parties;
- development, design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of deposits and plants processing uranium ores and rare-earth metal ores;
- rehabilitation of uranium tailings storage facilities and disposal of decommissioned uranium mining and processing facilities;
- assistance in ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, and in emergency response at the request of one of the Parties;
- regulation of nuclear and radiation safety, supervision of physical protection of nuclear materials, nuclear installations, radiation sources, nuclear material and radioactive substance storage facilities, as well as systems of accounting and control of nuclear materials, radioactive substances, and radioactive waste;
- use of simulators for training specialists in the nuclear industry, including for work with equipment handling spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste;
- conducting fundamental and applied research in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy;
- production of radionuclides and their application in industry, medicine, and agriculture;
- education, training, and retraining of specialists for

the nuclear industry, including personnel of state regulatory bodies and organizations in the use of atomic energy;

- development of regulatory and normative-technical documentation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy, including for the needs of safety regulatory authorities in the use of atomic energy and operators.

For the purpose of implementing this Agreement, the Parties designate the following competent authorities:

from the Russian Party – the State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom” and the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological, and Nuclear Supervision in the part concerning the regulation of nuclear and radiation safety, supervision of the physical protection of nuclear materials, nuclear installations, radiation sources, storage facilities for nuclear materials and radioactive substances, as well as accounting and control systems for nuclear materials, radioactive substances, and radioactive waste, including assistance in improving the Uzbek system of state regulation of safety in the use of atomic energy, as well as training personnel of the state regulatory authority for nuclear and radiation safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

from the Uzbek Party – the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State Inspectorate for Supervision over Geological Exploration, Safe Industrial Operations, Mining, and Utility Sectors under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (currently, the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan) in the part concerning the regulation of nuclear and radiation safety, accounting and control of nuclear materials and radioactive substances, supervision of the activities of storage facilities for nuclear materials, radioactive sources, and disposal of radioactive waste, licensing and supervision of the safe operation of nuclear power and research reactors, and the development of uranium deposits.

The Parties shall promptly inform each other in writing through diplomatic channels in the event of any changes to the competent authorities, their names, or their functions. Each competent authority shall bear its own expenses and costs arising in the course of implementing this Agreement.

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Construction of a Nuclear Power Plant on the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Moscow, September 7, 2018) – is dedicated to the joint project of constructing the first NPP in Uzbekistan based on the VVER-1200 design, with two power units of 1,200 MW each. (Subsequently, amendments were made to the mentioned intergovernmental agreement twice. The first amendment – on June 20, 2025, when the Parties signed an Additional Agreement providing for the phased implementation of the project – construction of a small nuclear power plant and a large NPP on the same site in the Jizzakh region (near Lake Tuzkan). At the same time, the provisions for constructing a large plant with power units of up to 1.2 GW each were retained and supplemented with clauses on the construction of a small-capacity plant based on RITM-200N reactor units.

The second amendment – on September 26, 2025 – specified the configuration of the integrated nuclear power plant, providing for the construction of two high-power VVER-1000 reactors (1,000 MW each) and two low-power RITM-200N reactors (55 MW each). Thus, the project acquired the format of an integrated nuclear power plant with a total capacity of approximately 2.1 GW, combining small and large nuclear power technologies.

According to Article **5** of this Agreement, for the purpose of implementing the cooperation provided for in this Agreement, the competent authority of the Russian Side shall ensure that the General Contractor fulfills the following obligations in accordance with the contracts (agreements):

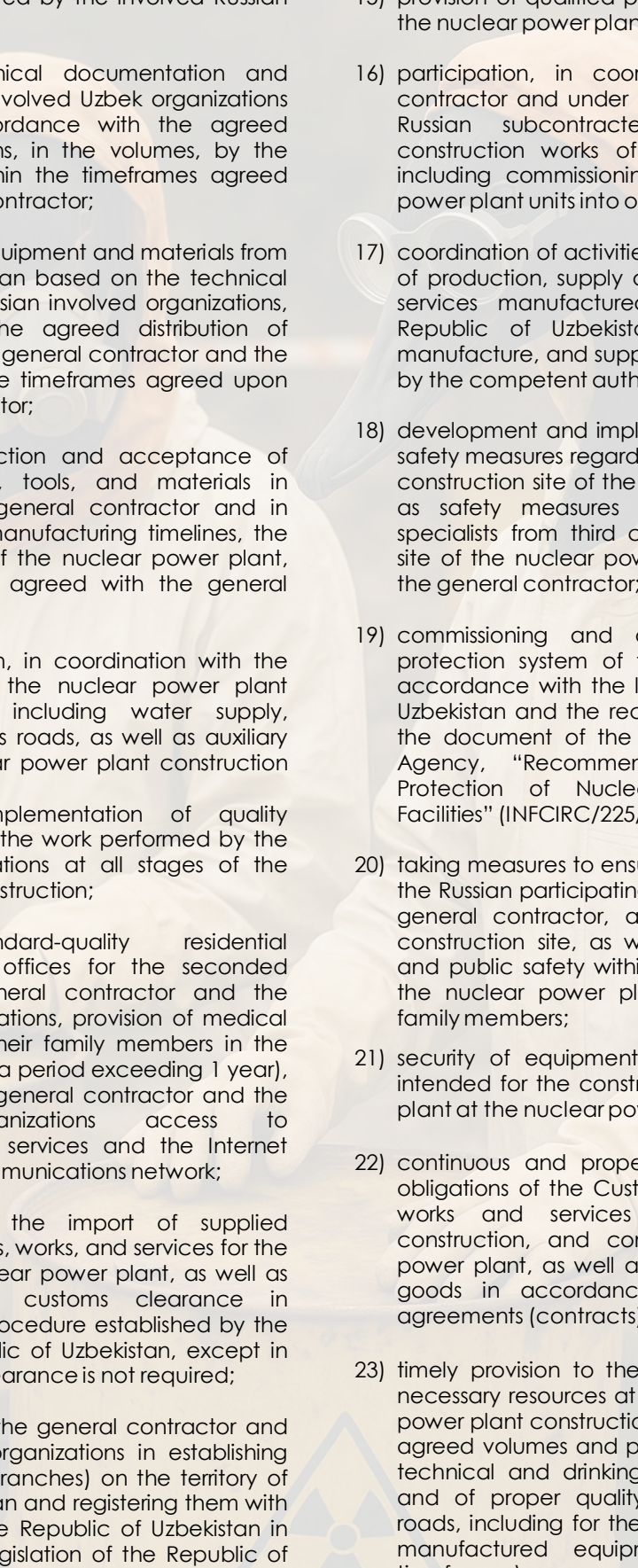
- 1) development of the technical design of the nuclear power plant (excluding the physical protection system), preparation of the safety justification report, taking into account the safety requirements provided for by the legislation of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 2) development of the design documentation of the nuclear power plant and its transfer to the Customer for obtaining the necessary special permits (licenses) for the design, construction, commissioning, and operation of the nuclear power plant;
- 3) providing support to the Customer on issues related to obtaining the necessary special permits (licenses) for the design, construction, commissioning, and operation of the nuclear power plant;
- 4) transferring to the Customer, upon its request, the regulatory documents of the Russian Federation governing the design, construction, and operation of nuclear power plants in the Russian Federation;
- 5) carrying out design supervision and control over compliance with project requirements at all stages of construction and commissioning of the nuclear power plant;
- 6) supplying to the Republic of Uzbekistan technological equipment, devices, instruments, and materials in volumes, according to the nomenclature and within the timeframes necessary for the commissioning of the nuclear power plant units in accordance with the agreed scope and specifications;
- 7) performing construction and installation works on the nuclear power plant facilities to the agreed extent;
- 8) carrying out testing and commissioning works, and the commissioning of the nuclear power plant;
- 9) supplying spare parts required according to the manufacturers' specifications for the period of commissioning, start-up, and warranty operation of the nuclear power plant;
- 10) development and implementation of quality assurance programs at all stages of the nuclear power plant construction;
- 11) quality management of works, including quality assurance and acceptance of equipment and

materials;

- 12) provision of consultancy services to the customer in the development of programs and organizational measures to ensure physical protection;
- 13) training of the customer's operational personnel for the operation and maintenance of the nuclear power plant;
- 14) assignment of experts and specialists to the Republic of Uzbekistan under preparatory period contracts and the general contract for carrying out construction, installation, and commissioning works, commissioning of equipment and systems of the nuclear power plant, providing technical assistance during commissioning and start-up operations, as well as during the warranty operation period of the nuclear power plant;
- 15) design, manufacture, and execution of construction, installation, and commissioning works necessary for the establishment of the physical protection system of the main and auxiliary facilities of the nuclear power plant, to the extent specified in the International Atomic Energy Agency document "Nuclear Security Recommendations on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5).

According to Article **6** of this Agreement, for the purpose of implementing the cooperation provided for in this Agreement, the competent authority of the Uzbek Side shall ensure that the customer fulfills, in accordance with the contracts (agreements), the following obligations:

- 1) the transfer, in the volumes and within the timeframes agreed with the general contractor, of the initial data necessary for conducting surveys at the site of the nuclear power plant, developing the technical design, and designing the nuclear power plant, with the customer being responsible for the accuracy of such data;
- 2) the provision, on a gratuitous basis, to the general contractor of the nuclear power plant site free from third-party rights, and the assurance of access to it for the personnel of the general contractor, Russian subcontracting organizations, Uzbek subcontracting organizations, and organizations of third countries for the period of construction, commissioning, and warranty operation of the nuclear power plant;
- 3) obtaining, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the necessary permits (licenses) for the design, construction, and commissioning of the nuclear power plant;
- 4) assisting the authorized Russian organizations, including the general contractor, as well as the involved Russian organizations, in obtaining in the Republic of Uzbekistan the necessary permits (licenses) required for carrying out works and providing services under the agreements (contracts), including for the transit movement of goods through the territories of states adjacent to the Republic of Uzbekistan;

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- 5) development, in the volumes and within the timeframes agreed upon with the general contractor, of its part of the design documentation, including the section concerning the characteristics of the area and the site of the nuclear power plant in the safety justification report, and approval of the technical project prepared by the involved Russian organizations;
- 6) development of technical documentation and manufacturing by the involved Uzbek organizations of equipment in accordance with the agreed distribution of obligations, in the volumes, by the nomenclature, and within the timeframes agreed upon with the general contractor;
- 7) delivery of part of the equipment and materials from the Republic of Uzbekistan based on the technical specifications of the Russian involved organizations, in accordance with the agreed distribution of obligations between the general contractor and the customer, and within the timeframes agreed upon with the general contractor;
- 8) carrying out the inspection and acceptance of equipment, instruments, tools, and materials in coordination with the general contractor and in accordance with the manufacturing timelines, the construction schedule of the nuclear power plant, and within the scopes agreed with the general contractor;
- 9) design and construction, in coordination with the general contractor, of the nuclear power plant infrastructure facilities, including water supply, electricity supply, access roads, as well as auxiliary structures on the nuclear power plant construction site;
- 10) development and implementation of quality assurance programs for the work performed by the Uzbek-involved organizations at all stages of the nuclear power plant construction;
- 11) provision of standard-quality residential accommodations and offices for the seconded employees of the general contractor and the Russian-involved organizations, provision of medical services (including for their family members in the case of secondment for a period exceeding 1 year), as well as granting the general contractor and the Russian-involved organizations access to international telephone services and the Internet information and telecommunications network;
- 12) obtaining permits for the import of supplied equipment and materials, works, and services for the construction of the nuclear power plant, as well as presenting goods for customs clearance in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, except in cases where customs clearance is not required;
- 13) providing assistance to the general contractor and the Russian engaged organizations in establishing representative offices (branches) on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and registering them with the tax authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 14) provision of qualified personnel for the period of commissioning and start-up of the nuclear power plant, carried out under the supervision of the general contractor;
- 15) provision of qualified personnel for the operation of the nuclear power plant;
- 16) participation, in coordination with the general contractor and under the design supervision of the Russian subcontracted organizations, in the construction works of the nuclear power plant, including commissioning and putting the nuclear power plant units into operation;
- 17) coordination of activities concerning the localization of production, supply of equipment, materials, and services manufactured on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the list, conditions of manufacture, and supply of which are agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Parties;
- 18) development and implementation of the necessary safety measures regarding physical protection at the construction site of the nuclear power plant, as well as safety measures for Russian specialists and specialists from third countries at the construction site of the nuclear power plant, agreed upon with the general contractor;
- 19) commissioning and operation of the physical protection system of the nuclear power plant in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the recommendations contained in the document of the International Atomic Energy Agency, "Recommendations on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities" (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5);
- 20) taking measures to ensure the safety of personnel of the Russian participating organizations, including the general contractor, at the nuclear power plant construction site, as well as ensuring public order and public safety within the residential complex at the nuclear power plant for personnel and their family members;
- 21) security of equipment, instruments, and materials intended for the construction of the nuclear power plant at the nuclear power plant construction site;
- 22) continuous and proper fulfillment of all payment obligations of the Customer, including financing all works and services related to the design, construction, and commissioning of the nuclear power plant, as well as the supply of all necessary goods in accordance with the terms of the agreements (contracts);
- 23) timely provision to the General Contractor of the necessary resources at the boundary of the nuclear power plant construction site, including electricity (in agreed volumes and proper technical parameters), technical and drinking water (in agreed volumes and of proper quality), sewage systems, access roads, including for the transportation of long-cycle manufactured equipment (within the agreed timeframes)

- 24) operation of the nuclear power plant during the commissioning phase and throughout the warranty period;
- 25) timely provision to the general contractor of information necessary for the rendering of advisory services concerning the physical protection of the main and auxiliary facilities of the nuclear power plant.

4. Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the operational notification of a nuclear accident and the exchange of information in the field of nuclear and radiation safety, signed in the city of Tashkent on November 18, 2021, and in the city of Moscow on November 19, 2021 – establishes a regime of urgent notification in the event of nuclear or radiation accidents. The Parties undertake to promptly inform each other and provide the necessary information regarding any accidents at nuclear installations or activities associated with the risk of transboundary release of radioactive substances, in order to minimize radiological consequences.

According to Article **3** of the Agreement, the competent authorities of the Parties responsible for implementing this Agreement are:

from the Uzbek side – the State Committee for Industrial Safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan (currently, the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan), in matters of exchanging information on the state of nuclear and radiation safety of nuclear power and research reactors; the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in matters of operational notification of a nuclear accident;

from the Russian side – the State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom.”

It is also established that in the event of any changes to the competent authorities, their names, or their functions, the Parties shall notify each other of such changes in writing through diplomatic channels.



SECTION II. NATIONAL LEGISLATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

2.1 The main legislative framework of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Regulation of safety in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy is carried out through the relevant norms and rules. In implementation of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 19, 2018, No. 5484 "On Measures for the Development of Nuclear Energy in the Republic of Uzbekistan," the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" was adopted on September 9, 2019. The purpose of this law is to establish the legal framework for the functioning of institutions and systems ensuring the peaceful use of atomic energy, as well as to organize a unified system of norms and rules, and to create an effective mechanism for ensuring the safety of individuals and legal entities in the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, also establishes the procedures for the placement and construction of nuclear installations and storage facilities, the operation of atomic energy utilization facilities, the transportation (carriage) of nuclear materials and radioactive substances, the import and export of nuclear installations and waste, as well as their storage, processing, and disposal.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 393 "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated August 26, 2015, establishes the legal and organizational foundations for preventing adverse effects on the human body and its environment, with the aim of ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population. Article **22** of this Law outlines the responsibilities of organizations working with sources of ionizing radiation, including radioactive waste.

According to Article **7** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 120-II "On Radiation Safety" dated August 31, 2000, state control in the field of radiation safety is carried out by the State Committee for Industrial Safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection, and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Thus, as of today, the main legislative framework regulating safety in the field of radiation safety and the use of atomic energy in the Republic of Uzbekistan is constituted by the following laws:

1. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 3PY-565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019;
2. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 120-II "On Radiation Safety" dated August 31, 2000;
3. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 186 "On the Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel

Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Vienna, September 5, 1997)" dated December 11, 2008;

4. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 393 "On Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" dated August 26, 2015;
5. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 362-II "On Waste" dated April 5, 2002;
6. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 213-II "On the Transit of Special Cargoes and Military Contingents" dated May 11, 2005;
7. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 987 "On Subsoil" dated October 31, 2024.
8. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 658-II "On Export Control" dated August 26, 2004;
9. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 363 "On Environmental Control" dated December 27, 2013;
10. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 754-XII "On Nature Protection" dated December 9, 1992;
11. Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan No. 760-XII "On Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" dated December 9, 1992;
12. Resolution of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 556-I "On Accession to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material" dated December 26, 1997;
13. Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Administrative Liability dated September 22, 1994;
14. Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 22, 1994.

2.1.1. Related legal acts

The Land Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulates property relations. In accordance with Article **86** of the aforementioned Code, damages caused to landowners, land users, lessees, and owners of land plots shall be fully compensated, including lost profits. Compensation is provided in cases of deterioration in land quality due to impacts caused by the construction and operation of reservoirs, canals, collectors, and other facilities that release substances harmful to agricultural crops and plantations, as well as other actions of legal entities and individuals leading to reduced yields and deterioration of the quality of agricultural products.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 410 "On Labour Protection" dated September 22, 2016, contains provisions for safeguarding employees' health. According to Article **26** of the aforementioned Law, employees entering work in high-risk industries or in positions requiring professional selection must undergo preliminary training in safe methods and techniques for performing their duties, a one-month internship in the profession with examinations, followed by periodic certification on labor protection issues.

2.2. Licensing of activities in the field of atomic energy use

According to Article **20** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the licensing of activities in the field of atomic energy use is carried out by a specially authorized body, which issues permits to legal entities engaged in activities in the field of atomic energy use, provided that the safety of atomic energy facilities and the conducted operations is ensured.

Special regulations for obtaining licenses in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy are established in the Regulation on the Procedure for Licensing in the Field of Atomic Energy Use, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 663 "On the approval of the regulation on the procedure for licensing activities in the field of atomic energy use" dated October 28, 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 663").

According to Clause 2 of the Regulation approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 663:

The following activities of operating organizations are subject to licensing in the field of atomic energy use:

- 1. Construction and operation of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;
- 2. Handling of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste.

The main conditions for an operating organization to obtain a license are:

- availability of a positive safety justification expert conclusion for the facilities of atomic energy use and/or activities in the field of atomic energy use;
- availability, within the operating organization, of financial provisions to compensate for harm caused by radiation exposure;
- justification of the financial stability of the operating organization to ensure safety at all stages of the full "lifecycle" of the atomic energy facility.

The following activities of other legal entities are subject to licensing in the field of atomic energy use:

- 1. Design and construction of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities, as well as operation of radiation sources;
- 2. Design and manufacture of equipment for nuclear installations and/or storage facilities, and radiation sources;
- 3. Conducting safety justification expertise for facilities of atomic energy use and/or activities in the field of atomic energy use;
- 4. Handling of radioactive substances and nuclear materials, including their use, transportation, and storage;
- 5. Management of radioactive waste, including its processing, transportation, storage, and disposal;
- 6. Conducting scientific research at facilities utilizing atomic energy;

- 7. Import and export of nuclear materials, equipment, and technologies for nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;
- 8. Provision of services in the field of atomic energy use;
- 9. Training, retraining, and professional development of personnel required for the operation of nuclear energy facilities.

According to the Regulation approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 663, activities in the field of the use of atomic energy are licensed by the "Committee on Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan." A license is issued only to legal entities for carrying out the specified types of activities without limitation of its validity period. The type of activity for which a license has been obtained may be carried out only by the legal entity that has received the license. The transfer of licenses or rights to licenses to other persons is prohibited.

2.3. Legal Status and Liability

Mandatory insurance of civil liability of operators for nuclear damage is established in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to Annex No. 5 to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 10, 2008 No. 271 "Regulation on the procedure for mandatory insurance of civil liability for harm caused to the life, health and/or property of other persons and the environment in the event of an accident at a hazardous production facility," an insurance contract is defined as an agreement under which the insurer undertakes, in return for a fee (insurance premium) stipulated by the contract, to compensate the victim for damage caused by an insured event in the amount of the insured sum specified in the insurance contract.

A financial penalty exists for violations in the field of licensing, permit, and notification procedures. According to clause 33 of Annex No. 4 to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 701 "On Licensing, Permit, and Notification Procedures" dated July 14, 2021, engaging in activities in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy without a license, or obtaining a license using forged documents, entails a fine in the amount of 300 times the base calculation value (BCV).

NOTE: As of today, 1 (one) BCV amounts to 412,000 Uzbek sums.

In addition, according to Article **98** of the Code of Administrative Liability of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CoAL), a violation of the rules, norms, and instructions for accounting, storage, and use of explosive and radioactive materials (sources) in industry and at other facilities under the control of the authorities of the State Committee for Industrial Safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan entails a fine for individuals ranging from one to three base calculation values (BCVs), and for officials from five to seven BCVs. The same violation, if committed again within one year after the application of an administrative penalty, entails a fine for individuals from three to five BCVs, and for officials from ten to fifteen BCVs.

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan also provides for punitive measures for the commission of crimes specified in Articles **246, 252–254, and 297**.

2.4. Authorized Bodies

According to Article 10 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, state administration in the field of the use of atomic energy is carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the authorized state body for the management of atomic energy, state bodies, institutions, and organizations with separate powers in state management in the field of the use of atomic energy, as well as local government authorities. State regulation of the safety of the use of atomic energy is carried out by the specially authorized state body for safety regulation in the use of atomic energy and state bodies with separate powers in the regulation of safety in the use of atomic energy (hereinafter referred to as “state safety regulatory bodies”).

This article distinguishes two types of powers:

- 1) “Management”;
- 2) “Safety Regulation.”

2.4.1. Authorized bodies in the field of Management atomic energy use:

Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
According to Article 11 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan №565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is granted the following powers:

- 1) ensuring the implementation of a unified state policy in the field of atomic energy use;
- 2) coordinating the activities of state and economic management bodies, as well as local government authorities, in the field of atomic energy use;
- 3) organization of the development and implementation of state programs in the field of atomic energy use;
- 4) adoption of normative legal acts in the field of atomic energy use within its authority;
- 5) coordination of work on the selection of the site (territory) for the placement of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility;
- 6) organization of scientific, technical, and investment activities in the field of atomic energy use;
- 7) taking measures for the social protection of citizens residing and/or working in the areas of atomic energy facilities;
- 8) implementation of international cooperation in the field of atomic energy use.

Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
According to Article 12 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan №565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- 1) implements the unified state policy in the field of nuclear energy development;
- 2) coordinates the activities of state and economic management bodies, as well as local government authorities, in the field of nuclear energy development;
- 3) develops and implements state and other programs for the development of nuclear energy;

nuclear energy;

- 5) participates in the development of regulatory legal acts in the field of atomic energy use, and within its competence, develops and approves norms and rules in this area;
- 6) organizes the development and implementation of fire safety measures at subordinate nuclear energy facilities;
- 7) takes measures to ensure the physical protection of subordinate nuclear energy facilities;
- 8) organizes activities related to the survey, siting, design, construction, and operation of subordinate nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;
- 9) promotes the preparation and implementation of projects for fundamental research, scientific exploration, experimental design, and innovation works, as well as the introduction of advanced technologies;
- 10) establishes and improves systems of radiation and nuclear safety at subordinate nuclear energy facilities;
- 11) takes measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies, radioactive materials, as well as implements activities to ensure radiation and nuclear safety at subordinate nuclear energy facilities;
- 12) organizes a system for training, retraining, and advanced qualification of personnel necessary for the operation of nuclear energy facilities, including abroad;
- 13) participates in the development and implementation of external and internal emergency response plans;
- 14) participates in the establishment and operation of the Unified State Automated System for Monitoring the Radiation Situation in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 15) carries out departmental control over the formation and implementation of programs for the management of nuclear materials, spent nuclear fuel, and radioactive waste;
- 16) designates leading organizations (scientific, design, and project) for nuclear installations and/or storage facilities, and approves their statutes;
- 17) engages in international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

The Atomic Energy Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzatom Agency).
By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 709 “On the Organization of the Activities of the Atomic Energy Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated October 28, 2024, the Uzatom Agency is vested with the following powers:

- 1) Implementation of a unified state policy in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 2) Coordination of the activities of republican and local executive authorities in the field of the use of atomic energy;

- 3) development and implementation of state and other programs in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 4) development of measures to ensure safety in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 5) participation in the development of draft regulatory legal acts in the field of the use of atomic energy, as well as the development and adoption of norms and rules within its competence;
- 6) organization of the development and implementation of measures to ensure fire safety at subordinate nuclear energy facilities;
- 7) taking measures to ensure the physical protection of nuclear energy facilities under its jurisdiction;
- 8) organization of activities related to the study, siting, design, construction, and operation of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities under its authority;
- 9) promotion of the preparation and implementation of projects for fundamental research, scientific, design, and innovative work, and the introduction of advanced technologies;
- 10) establishment and improvement of the system for ensuring radiation and nuclear safety at nuclear energy facilities;
- 11) implementation of measures to ensure the non-proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies, radioactive materials, as well as to maintain radiation and nuclear safety at nuclear energy facilities;
- 12) organization of a system for training, retraining, and advanced professional development of personnel required for the operation of nuclear energy facilities, including abroad;
- 13) participation in the development and implementation of both external and internal emergency response plans;
- 14) participation in the organization and operation of the Unified State Automated System for Monitoring the Radiation Situation throughout the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 15) departmental supervision over the development and implementation of programs related to work with nuclear materials, spent nuclear fuel, and radioactive waste;
- 16) determination of the main (scientific, design, and engineering) organization for nuclear energy facilities and/or storage sites, and approval of their statutes;
- 17) implementation of international cooperation in the field of nuclear energy use and ensuring the fulfillment of the Republic of Uzbekistan's obligations under international treaties on the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Other Bodies.

According to Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, state bodies, institutions, and organizations that have specific powers in the field of state administration of the use of atomic energy, within their respective competences,

perform the following functions:

- 1) ensure the protection of the life and health of citizens, the protection of the rights and lawful interests of individuals and legal entities, their property, as well as the environment from radiation exposure;
- 2) participate in activities related to the training, retraining, and advanced training of personnel in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 3) take part in the development and implementation of comprehensive programs for the socio-economic development and environmental safety of territories where nuclear installations and/or storage facilities are located;
- 4) organize and carry out monitoring of the radiation situation on the territory of subordinate facilities using atomic energy;
- 5) create and improve radiation and nuclear safety systems at subordinate atomic energy facilities;
- 6) carry out measures to ensure fire safety at subordinate atomic energy facilities;
- 7) take measures to ensure the physical protection of subordinate atomic energy facilities;
- 8) organize the readiness of the forces and resources of subordinate organizations and units to act in the event of emergencies related to the use of atomic energy, as well as exercise departmental control over the implementation of measures for their prevention;
- 9) participate in implementing measures for the elimination, containment, and mitigation of the consequences of an accident related to an atomic energy facility.

2.4.2. Authorized bodies for regulating the safety of the use of atomic energy:

The Committee for Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (the specially authorized body). According to Article 16 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated 9 September 2019, the specially authorized body, within its powers:

- 1) forms and implements the main directions of the state policy in the field of ensuring the safety of facilities using atomic energy;
- 2) coordinates the activities of state bodies that have separate powers for state regulation of the safety of the use of atomic energy;
- 3) exercises state control over compliance with the requirements of the legislation on the use of atomic energy at facilities using atomic energy;
- 4) exercises state supervision and control over ensuring the safety of facilities using atomic energy;
- 5) develops, approves, enforces, and ensures the implementation of norms and rules in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 6) carries out state supervision over the physical protection of facilities using atomic energy;

- 7) ensures state control over compliance with the accounting of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste at nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;
- 8) organizes the expert review of the safety justification of facilities using atomic energy and/or activities in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 9) carries out licensing of activities in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 10) issues permits for the right to perform work in the field of the use of atomic energy to employees of operating organizations and other legal entities engaged in activities in the field of the use of atomic energy, in accordance with the list of employee positions, as well as the list of types of work;
- 11) develops and implements preventive measures to ensure radiation and nuclear safety of facilities using atomic energy;
- 12) participates in the development of the external emergency plan and ensures state supervision over the emergency preparedness of state management bodies and other legal entities engaged in activities in the field of the use of atomic energy;
- 13) approves the procedure for the technical investigation of the causes of incidents and accidents at facilities using atomic energy;
- 14) provides state and economic management bodies, local government authorities, and local self-government bodies with information on issues of safety in the use of atomic energy;
- 15) carries out international cooperation in the field of the use of atomic energy.

Other bodies. According to Article 17 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the state bodies having separate powers for state regulation of the safety of the use of atomic energy are:

- State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection;
- Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Construction and Housing and Communal Services of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Geology and Mineral Resources;
- State Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Center of the Hydrometeorological Service under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- National Guard of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

- participate in the decision-making regarding the selection of sites for the placement of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;
- participate in the organization of the safety justification expertise of nuclear facilities and/or activities in the field of atomic energy use;
- exercise state supervision and control over compliance with nuclear, radiation, industrial, fire, sanitary-epidemiological, and environmental safety requirements;
- exercise state control over the physical protection of nuclear facilities, as well as over the emergency preparedness of state administration bodies and other legal entities.

2.4.3. National operators (operating organizations)

Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as INP AS). INP AS of the Republic of Uzbekistan holds license AS №0036 dated 26 August 2019, which includes research and experimental design works in the field of handling ionizing radiation sources (IRS), their use, storage, maintenance, transportation, neutralization, disposal, and burial.

According to paragraph B.4 "Practice in the Field of Radioactive Waste Management" of Section B "Policy and Practice" of the Second National Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the IAEA on the Implementation of Obligations under the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management from 2020, the national operator for radioactive waste disposal is the State Unitary Enterprise "Republican Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility" under the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (SUE "RRWDF" INP AS RUZ), which is part of the structure of the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the AS RUZ. SUE "RRWDF" INP AS RUZ carries out the acceptance and disposal of radioactive waste.

2.5. Legislation on the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste

Uzbekistan acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management pursuant to Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 186 "On the Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Vienna, 5 September 1997)" dated 11 December 2008.

The adoption of this law confirmed the Republic of Uzbekistan's commitment to international standards and obligations in the field of safe management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW).

National legislation governs the management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and ensures the fulfillment of the key obligations set forth therein. At the same time, accession to the Convention has established a foundation for the further development of the regulatory and legal framework in this area, aimed at enhancing nuclear and radiation safety in line with international approaches and the commitments of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Relations in the field of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) management are regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan—with respect to ensuring fundamental human rights and

Legal regulation is carried out on the basis of the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, normative legal acts of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers. Additionally, issues related to safety in the management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RW) are governed by sanitary rules and radiation safety standards, as well as departmental regulatory acts of the authorized bodies in the field of atomic energy use.

According to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan №231 "On the approval of the regulations on the procedure for state accounting and control over the circulation of radioactive substances and radioactive waste, as well as nuclear materials" dated 13 August 2009, radioactive waste (RW) is divided into three classes by hazard level based on the tables provided in Annex №2 to the Regulation approved by this Resolution. State sanitary and epidemiological rules, norms, and hygienic standards, approved by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Uzbekistan, define safety and/or harmlessness criteria for specific environmental factors for the population, and establish mandatory requirements, non-compliance with which may pose a danger to human life or health.

By Resolution No. 25 of the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of Safety Requirements for Handling Radioactive Waste" dated October 10, 2025 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 28, 2025, registration number 3694), safety requirements for handling radioactive waste were approved. The document establishes requirements for ensuring safety in the handling of radioactive waste generated during the operation and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, small modular nuclear reactors, research nuclear reactors, and other nuclear energy facilities.

According to paragraph 2 of the Safety Requirements for Handling Radioactive Waste, the following safety measures (requirements) must be observed:

- implementation of continuous individual monitoring of workers' radiation doses;
- classification of radioactive waste according to their activity level;
- use of protective and engineering barriers to prevent the spread of radiation from radioactive waste;
- provision of workers with personal protective equipment and dosimetric monitoring devices;
- prevention of radioactive contamination of the environment and establishment of sanitary protection zones;
- ensuring readiness for potential radiation accidents and defining operational response measures for their mitigation;
- conducting an assessment of radiation safety for the processes of collection, sorting, processing, conditioning, transportation, storage, neutralization, disposal, and burial of radioactive waste;
- compliance with SanPiN 0193-06 "Radiation Safety Standards (NRB 2006) and Basic Sanitary Rules for Ensuring Radiation Safety (OSPORB 2006)";

- compliance with SanPiN 0251-08 "Sanitary Rules for Handling Radioactive Waste";
- monitoring and recording individual radiation doses received by employees in accordance with the Regulation on the Unified State System for Monitoring and Accounting of Individual Radiation Doses, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 29, 2021, No. 613;
- organizing the training, retraining, professional development, and certification of personnel in accordance with the Regulation on the Procedure for Training, Retraining, Professional Development, and Certification of Personnel of Operating Organizations and Other Legal Entities Engaged in Activities in the Field of Atomic Energy, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 10, 2022, No. 13;
- organizing medical examinations of employees in accordance with the Regulation on the Procedure for Conducting Medical Examinations of Employees (Regulation dated August 29, 2012, No. 2387).

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following fundamental sanitary rules and norms regarding the handling of SNF and RW exist:

1. State sanitary-epidemiological rules and norms of the Republic of Uzbekistan №0193-06 "Radiation Safety Standards (NRB-2006) and Basic Sanitary Rules for Ensuring Radiation Safety (OSPORB-2006)," approved by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Uzbekistan B.I. Niyazmetov on January 5, 2006 (SanPiN №0193-06);
2. State sanitary-epidemiological rules and norms of the Republic of Uzbekistan №0251-08 "Sanitary Rules for Handling Radioactive Waste," approved by the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Uzbekistan B.I. Niyazmetov on February 7, 2008 (SanPiN №0251-08);
3. State Standard of the Republic of Uzbekistan "Radiological Monitoring of the Environment at Sites of Radioactive Waste Disposal from Uranium Production," approved and enacted by the order of the Chief State Sanitary Doctor of the Republic of Uzbekistan S.S. Saidaliyev on September 20, 2018 №0361-18 (SanPiN №0361-18);
4. Order of the Head of the State Inspectorate for Supervision over Geological Exploration of Subsoil, Safe Industrial Operations, Mining, and the Utilities Sector under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (currently – Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan) dated April 19, 2013 №61 "On Approval of the Regulation on the Handling and Long-Term Storage of Radioactive Waste in the Republic of Uzbekistan," adopted in coordination with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan and classified as a technical document on May 22, 2013 №6-24-5127/6.



2.6. Accounting and control of nuclear materials

The system of state accounting and control of nuclear materials covers all nuclear materials and radioactive waste (RW) located on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The “Regulation on the Procedure for State Accounting and Control over the Circulation of Nuclear Materials” and the “Regulation on the Procedure for State Accounting and Control over the Circulation of Radioactive Substances and Radioactive Waste,” approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan №231 “On the approval of the regulations on the procedure for state accounting and control over the circulation of radioactive substances and radioactive waste, as well as nuclear materials” dated August 13, 2009, establish the procedure for registering and deregistering nuclear materials, radioactive substances, and radioactive waste.

The aforementioned Regulations introduce the concepts of “material balance area” (MBA) and “key measurement point.” It is established that each location for storage or use of nuclear materials must be registered in the state accounting system.

Within each entity engaged in the circulation of nuclear materials, the following reporting documents, based on accounting data, are created and used as part of a unified reporting system:

- report on changes in inventory quantity;
- physical inventory and material balance report;
- list of nuclear materials on hand;
- list of actual nuclear materials on hand;
- special report.

In addition to the aforementioned regulations, the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is governed by the Rules for the Organization of the State Accounting and Control System for the Circulation of Sources of Ionizing Radiation, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 98 “On the approval of the rules for the organization of the state system for accounting and control of the circulation of ionizing radiation sources” dated April 3, 2009 (hereinafter – Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Uzbekistan No. 98).

According to Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 98, entities engaged in the circulation of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR):

- ensure safety and security in handling sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- conduct internal accounting of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- provide physical protection of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);

- submit information on the accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) to the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- ensure the timely transfer of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) not intended for further use to a specialized organization authorized to carry out activities for the disposal, neutralization, or burial of such sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- allow only individuals who have undergone training, meet qualification requirements, and have no medical contraindications to directly work with sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- ensure confidentiality of information in the prescribed manner;
- provide personnel engaged in activities related to the handling of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) with the necessary protective equipment and radiation monitoring;
- notify in advance the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of planned transactions involving sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- report to the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as to the relevant territorial bodies of the Committee for Sanitary-Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, any cases of illegal handling of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR).

According to Clause 11 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan №98, the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, within its authority, ensures:

- state accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) at the republican level;
- maintenance of the national register of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- development and approval, in the prescribed manner, of regulatory legal acts on issues of ensuring state accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- development, in the prescribed manner, of the list of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) subject to state accounting and control;
- in cooperation with interested ministries, agencies, and organizations, development of criteria, conditions, and procedures for registering sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) for state accounting and control, as well as determination of categories of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) according to their potential radiological hazard;
- implementation of activities related to the creation, operation, methodological support, and improvement of the system of accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);

- collection of information for state accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR) at the republican level, its systematization and analysis;
- development, together with the interested state bodies, of the norms and rules for state accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- development and approval, in the prescribed manner, of the forms for accounting and control of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR);
- in the prescribed manner, provision of information on the presence and movement of sources of ionizing radiation (SIR).

2.7. Regulation of property rights

According to Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan №565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, facilities used in the field of atomic energy may be owned by the state or by those legal entities determined by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The list of such facilities, allowed to be in state or private ownership, is approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Owners of these facilities are obliged to ensure their preservation and to use them strictly in accordance with their designated purpose.

Transactions carried out by legal entities of the Republic of Uzbekistan involving the transfer of ownership rights to nuclear materials, including spent nuclear fuel, to a foreign state or to a legal entity of a foreign state are subject to mandatory approval by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Transactions involving the transfer of facilities using atomic energy to legal entities not included in the list established under part one of Article 6 of the above-mentioned Law, as well as transactions by legal entities of the Republic of Uzbekistan involving the transfer of ownership rights to nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel to foreign states or foreign legal entities executed without complying with the requirements of part three of Article 6 of the above-mentioned Law, shall be deemed void.

2.8. Transportation of nuclear materials

The transportation of nuclear materials is regulated by the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated 9 September 2019, No. 658-II-son "On Export Control" dated 26 August 2004, as well as by the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 35 "On the approval of the rules for the carriage of dangerous goods by road transport in the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 16 February 2011 and No. 62 "On State regulation and control of the transit of special cargoes and military contingents through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 21 February 2002.

According to Article 36 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 565 "On the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated 9 September 2019, the localization and elimination of the consequences of accidents occurring during the transportation (carriage) of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, nuclear

fuel, spent nuclear fuel, and radioactive waste are ensured by the forces and means of the entities carrying out the transportation (carriage), as well as by the specialized units of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the corresponding functional subsystems of the State System for Prevention and Response to Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to paragraph 3 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 62 "On State regulation and control of the transit of special cargoes and military contingents through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 21 February 2002, nuclear materials are classified as dangerous goods and the transit of such materials through the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is carried out on the basis of special permits. According to paragraph 4 of the said Resolution, a permit for the transit of dangerous goods is issued in a strictly established procedure after obtaining substantiated conclusions from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the State Security Service, the Customs Committee under the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Investments, Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, the Committee for Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers, the Civil Aviation Agency and the Transport Safety Inspection under the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan, taking into account the type and characteristics of the transported goods. A permit for the transit of dangerous goods is signed by the Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 658-II-son "On Export Control" dated 26 August 2004, nuclear materials are objects of export control in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to Article 9 of the said Law, the export of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological (biological) materials, including pathogens and strains of especially dangerous infections that may be used as components for the production of weapons of mass destruction, is carried out in coordination with the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the legislation.

According to paragraph 178 of the Rules for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Transport in the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 35 "On the approval of the rules for the carriage of dangerous goods by road transport in the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 16 February 2011 (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 35), the transportation of radioactive materials is carried out in accordance with the requirements of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 35, SanPiN No. 0193-06, and the IAEA Rules ST-1 (which were subsequently replaced by the updated document — SSR-6 (Rev. 1), 2018 edition).

2.9. Placement and construction of a nuclear installation or storage facility

Decision on the placement and construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

According to Article **25** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the decision on the construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is made by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of proposals from the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The decision on the selection of a site for the placement of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is made by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The specially authorized body, in the manner established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, organizes the state examination of the safety justification of the selected site and issues a permit for its use for the placement of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility.

Documents reflecting the assessment of the radiation impact of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility on the environment are submitted by the authorized state administration body or the operating organization as part of the design documentation of the relevant nuclear energy facilities for conducting the safety justification examination of nuclear energy facilities and/or activities in this field.

Cancellation of the decision on the placement and construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

Article **26** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, specifies the cases for cancellation of the decision on the placement and construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility.

In particular, if, based on the results of the safety justification examination of nuclear energy facilities and/or activities in this field, additional circumstances are identified that lead to a decrease in their safety level, a deterioration of the environmental condition, or other negative consequences, the decision on the construction of the nuclear installation and/or storage facility is subject to cancellation, and the construction work must be terminated or suspended.

The state safety regulatory authorities, the authorized state administration body, and local government authorities have the right to submit to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan a proposal to cancel the decision on the construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility, substantiating the identified additional factors on the basis of the safety justification examination of nuclear energy facilities and/or activities in this field.

The cancellation of the decision on the construction of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is carried out by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan upon the proposal of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2.10. Acceptance, commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of a nuclear installation and/or

storage facility

Acceptance and commissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

According to Article **29** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the acceptance of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility for operation is carried out simultaneously with all industrial and domestic facilities provided for in the project of these facilities, in the manner established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The commissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is carried out on the basis of a commissioning program approved by the operating organization on the basis of the design documentation of these facilities and agreed with the relevant state safety regulatory authorities.

The commissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is permitted only if the operating organization holds a license for the operation of these facilities, issued by the specially authorized body.

Operation of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

According to Article **30** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the operation of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is carried out by the operating organization.

The operating organization is responsible for the safety of the nuclear installation and/or storage facility, as well as for the handling of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste.

In the event that the operating organization is deprived of its license, it continues to be responsible for the safety of nuclear energy facilities until these facilities are transferred to another operating organization or until a new license is obtained.

To carry out its activities, the operating organization must have the necessary financial and material-technical resources and sufficient staffing capacity.

Decommissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

According to Article **33** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the procedure and measures to ensure the decommissioning of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities must be provided for in their design documentation in accordance with the current norms and regulations in the field of nuclear energy use.

Proposals for the decommissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility before the expiration of the technical life established by the project, or for the imposition of restrictions on their design technical and economic indicators, may be submitted by the authorized state administration body, state safety regulatory authorities, or local government authorities, provided that there are appropriate justifications and conclusions from state examinations.

Decommissioning fund for a nuclear installation and/or storage facility

Article **34** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, sets out the requirements and procedure for the establishment of a fund for the decommissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility.

In particular, to finance the decommissioning work, early termination of operation, or limitation of the operational parameters of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility, the operating organization establishes a Decommissioning Fund for such facilities.

The procedure for the formation of the Decommissioning Fund for a nuclear installation and/or storage facility is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and must be determined before the commissioning of the respective facilities.

For a nuclear power plant or its individual unit, the Decommissioning Fund is formed from funds received from the sale of electrical and thermal energy, the provision of other services, as well as from other sources not prohibited by law.

The funds of the Decommissioning Fund are used exclusively to cover expenses related to the decommissioning of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility, the handling of spent nuclear fuel, as well as to finance research and development work aimed at justifying and enhancing the safety of these facilities.

2.11. Emergency preparedness

Article **45** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, states that the procedure for preparing emergency plans, measures for eliminating, limiting, or mitigating the consequences of accidents arising from activities in the field of nuclear energy use, methods of informing the population, as well as procedures for verifying emergency preparedness, are established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan based on proposals from the specially authorized body or the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Under the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main emergency plans are divided into 2 types:

- 1. Internal emergency plan;
- 2. External emergency plan.

2.11.1. Internal emergency plan

According to Article **47** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, the internal emergency plan defines the actions of the operating organization to eliminate, limit, or mitigate the consequences of accidents occurring during the construction or operation of a nuclear installation and/or storage facility.

The internal emergency plan is developed and approved by the operating organization taking into account the external emergency plan and after coordination with the state safety regulatory authorities.

The internal emergency plan must be approved no later than six months before the scheduled commissioning of the nuclear installation and/or storage facility.

The operating organization develops the measures of the internal emergency plan and ensures its material, technical, and personnel readiness at its own expense and from other sources not prohibited by law.

The practical verification of the internal emergency plan is carried out before the commissioning of the facilities and throughout their operational period with a frequency established by the specially authorized body and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2.11.2. External emergency plan

According to Article **46** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 “On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes” dated September 9, 2019, the external emergency plan defines emergency response zones, as well as the actions of state administration bodies and local self-government bodies, forces and resources of the State System for Prevention and Response to Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan, aimed at protecting human life and health, preserving the environment, and ensuring the safety of property of individuals and legal entities in the event of an emergency arising from activities in the field of nuclear energy use.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan coordinates the development of the external emergency plan and monitors the implementation of the measures provided therein by the relevant state administration bodies and local self-government bodies, as well as by the forces and resources of the State System for Prevention and Response to Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The external emergency plan is approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Moreover, in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the “Regulation on the Unified State System for Forecasting, Early Detection, and Response to Radiation Accidents and Monitoring of the Radiation Situation in the Republic of Uzbekistan” is in effect, approved by Resolution No.869 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures for improving the Unified State System of forecasting, early detection, and response to radiation accidents” dated October 15, 2019.

The purpose of the Unified State System is to protect the life and health of the population, as well as the environment, from radiation exposure arising from radiation accidents, through the organization and timely implementation of activities for monitoring the radiation situation, forecasting and preventing accidents, as well as minimizing and eliminating their consequences.

The main tasks of the Unified State System are:

- Ensuring the development and implementation of a unified state policy in the field of radiation safety in the prevention and mitigation of the consequences of radiation accidents;
- Planning and ensuring the implementation of measures for forecasting, preventing, early detection, localization, and elimination of the consequences of radiation accidents, as well as external and internal threats capable of causing them;
- Organization and conduct of monitoring of the radiation situation;

- Development and improvement of the regulatory and legal framework of the Unified State System;
- Implementation of international cooperation on radiation safety issues and the introduction of advanced foreign experience in forecasting, early detection, and response to radiation accidents.

2.12. Compensation for damage caused by radiation exposure

Compensation for damage caused to individuals and legal entities as a result of radiation exposure

According to Article **49** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, compensation is provided for damage caused to the life and health of individuals as a result of radiation exposure or a combination of radiation exposure with toxic, explosive, or other hazardous factors.

If, along with the damage caused by radiation exposure, other damage is also caused that cannot be reasonably separated from the damage resulting from radiation exposure, such damage is subject to compensation in accordance with the legislation on the use of atomic energy.

Damage caused by the operating organization through radiation exposure is compensated regardless of the fault of this organization.

The operating organization is obliged to compensate for damage caused to individuals and/or legal entities as a result of radiation exposure arising from activities in the field of nuclear energy use.

The operating organization is not liable for damage caused by radiation exposure if it occurred due to force majeure or military actions.

The operating organization is exempt from compensating for damage caused by radiation exposure to a person if the damage resulted from their own intentional actions aimed at harming life or health.

Compensation for damage caused to the environment as a result of radiation exposure

Article **50** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, establishes that damage caused to the environment as a result of radiation exposure due to the fault of the operating organization is subject to compensation in the manner established by the legislation on the use of atomic energy.

Claims for such compensation may be filed against the operating organization by state administration bodies, authorized state bodies in the field of environmental protection, as well as local government authorities.

Financial Provision for Compensation of Damage Caused by Radiation Exposure

In addition to the provisions of the international Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan is governed by rules on financial provision for compensation of damage caused by radiation exposure, established in Article 51 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019.

According to the mentioned article, the operating organization is required to have financial provision for

the compensation of damage caused by radiation exposure. Such provision is formed from its own financial resources and/or an insurance policy (contract).

Neither the operating organization nor the insurer providing financial coverage for damage caused by radiation exposure under this article has the right to suspend or terminate such financial provision:

Without prior written notification to the specially authorized body and the authorized state administration body at least three months before the intended suspension or termination of the financial provision;

During the transportation of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and/or radioactive waste, if the corresponding financial provision covers such transportation.

State participation in compensation for damage caused by radiation exposure

General provisions on state participation in the compensation for damage caused by radiation exposure are set out in Article **52** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019.

According to the mentioned article, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan ensures the payment of part of the compensation for damage caused by radiation exposure if its amount exceeds the liability limit of the operating organization established by the international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and also compensates for damage arising from force majeure or military actions.

Detailed information on the international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in particular the "Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage," is provided in Section I, Clause 1.1 of this document.

2.13. Physical protection of nuclear energy facilities

The national system of physical protection and nuclear safety is based on the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, which defines physical protection as a "unified set of measures" to protect nuclear energy facilities and radioactive waste from unauthorized access and theft.

According to Article **40** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, the physical protection of nuclear energy facilities is a unified system of planning, coordination, state supervision and control, as well as a set of technical and organizational measures aimed at:

- Prevention of unauthorized access to the territory of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities, prevention of unauthorized access to radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste, as well as prevention of their theft or damage;
- Timely detection and suppression of any attempts to compromise the integrity of radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste, as well as timely detection and prevention of sabotage and terrorist actions that pose a threat to the safety of nuclear installations and/or storage facilities;

- Detection and recovery of lost or stolen radioactive substances, nuclear materials, and radioactive waste.

By Resolution No.271 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to implement the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On industrial safety of hazardous production facilities"" dated December 10, 2008, and Resolution No.231 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the approval of the regulations on the procedure for state accounting and control over the circulation of radioactive substances and radioactive waste, as well as nuclear materials" dated August 13, 2009, the following provisions were approved, which detail nuclear substances by hazard categories and other aspects:

- Regulation on the Procedure for Identification of Hazardous Production Facilities;
- Regulation on the Industrial Safety Expertise System;
- Concept for the Formation and Development of the Non-Destructive Testing System in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Regulation on the Procedure for the Development and Submission of the Industrial Safety Declaration to State Bodies, Public Associations, and Citizens;
- Regulation on the Procedure for Mandatory Insurance of Civil Liability for Causing Harm to Life, Health, and/or Property of Others and the Environment in the Event of an Accident at a Hazardous Production Facility;
- Regulation on the Procedure for State Accounting and Control over the Circulation of Nuclear Materials;
- Regulation on the Procedure for State Accounting and Control over the Circulation of Radioactive Substances and Radioactive Waste.

Also, Article **22** of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.120-II "On Radiation Safety" dated August 31, 2000, states that ensuring the security of radioactive and nuclear materials in all types of handling is mandatory.

The security of radioactive and nuclear materials is ensured by the users of ionizing radiation sources.

Ensuring the security of radioactive and nuclear materials involves a unified system of planning and implementing a set of technical and organizational measures aimed at:

- Prevention of unauthorized access to the territory where radioactive and nuclear materials are located, as well as their theft or damage;
- Detection and recovery of lost or stolen radioactive and nuclear materials.

2.14. Procedure for obtaining a permit to work in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy and certification

The procedure for obtaining a permit to conduct work in the field of nuclear energy use is regulated in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, and Resolution No.13 of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for Training, Retraining, Advanced Training, and Certification of Personnel of Operating Organizations and Other Legal Entities Engaged in Activities in the Field of the Use of Atomic Energy" dated January 10, 2022.

Article 21 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan

No.565 "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes" dated September 9, 2019, establishes that employees of operating organizations, as well as employees of other legal entities engaged in activities in the field of nuclear energy use, may perform certain types of work in this field only if they have permits to conduct work in the field of nuclear energy use.

The list of positions of employees who, depending on the nature of their functions, are required to obtain such permits, as well as the list of types of work for which obtaining permits to conduct work in the field of nuclear energy use is required, are approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2.14.1. General requirements for employee certification

According to Clause 14 of the "Regulation on the Procedure for Training, Retraining, Advanced Training, and Certification of Employees of Operating Organizations and Other Legal Entities Engaged in Activities in the Field of Nuclear Energy Use," approved by Resolution No.13 of the Cabinet of Ministers "On Approval of the Regulation on the Procedure for Training, Retraining, Advanced Training, and Certification of Personnel of Operating Organizations and Other Legal Entities Engaged in Activities in the Field of the Use of Atomic Energy" dated January 10, 2022 (hereinafter – Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13), employees of operating organizations and other legal entities undergo certification for:

- Objective assessment of their professional competence;
- Verification of compliance with qualification requirements;
- Determination of their ability to perform assigned duties and functions.

Employee certification is conducted by the specially authorized body, its territorial subdivisions, as well as by certification commissions established in operating organizations and other legal entities. Certification may be initial, periodic, or extraordinary.

Initial certification of employees is conducted within three months from the date of their employment or appointment to the corresponding position.

Periodic certification is conducted according to the following schedule:

- Heads of operating organizations and other legal entities, as well as chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of the certification commissions of these organizations – once every five years;
- Employees responsible for departmental (production) control over nuclear and radiation safety, technological processes, accounting and control of nuclear materials and radioactive substances, ensuring their physical protection, transportation of nuclear materials, radioactive substances, or products based on them, as well as members of certification commissions – once every three years;
- Engineering and technical personnel and other employees engaged in activities in the field of nuclear energy use not mentioned in the above paragraphs – once a year.

2.14.2. Procedure for employee certification by certification commissions of the specially authorized body and its territorial bodies

According to Clause 25 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13, to conduct employee certification, the operating organization, no later than three months before the end of the current certification period, submits an application to the certification commission, the specially authorized body, or its territorial subdivisions, either on paper or electronically, using the form established in Appendix 6 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13.

The application is accompanied by:

A questionnaire completed according to the form in Appendix 7 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13;

A copy of the certificate or diploma confirming the employee's training (retraining) or advanced training;

A certificate of work activity issued by the place of employment (for unemployed persons — by the last place of employment).

The operating organization is liable under the law for providing the certification commission with inaccurate information about employees.

The certification commission makes a decision on allowing or denying an employee's participation in the certification within three working days from the date of receipt of the application.

If the application does not meet the requirements of Clause 25 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13, the commission decides to deny the employee's participation in the certification, specifying the specific reasons. A copy of the decision is sent to the organization within one working day.

A period of no more than ten days, but in any case not exceeding one month, is provided to correct the deficiencies and resubmit the application.

The certification commission is obliged to notify the organization in writing of the place and time of the certification at least fifteen days before its conduct.

2.14.3. Procedure for employee certification by certification commissions of operating organizations and other legal entities

According to Clause 49 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13, employee certification by the certification commission of operating organizations and other legal entities is conducted in accordance with a schedule approved by the head of the organization and coordinated with the trade union committee (or its representative). Employees subject to certification are informed in advance about their inclusion in the schedule.

The list of questions for certification is approved by the head of the organization in agreement with the specially authorized body.

Employees subject to certification are notified by the certification commission of the place and time of its conduct no later than fifteen days in advance.

Based on the results of the knowledge assessment, the

certification commission makes one of the following decisions:

Recognize the employee as having passed the certification and issue a certification certificate;

Recognize the employee as having failed the certification.

The results of the certification are documented in a protocol using the form established in Appendix 7 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13. The protocol is signed by the chairperson, their deputy, and the members of the certification commission, after which the corresponding entry is made in the employee's personal file.

2.14.4. Procedure for extraordinary certification of employees

According to Clause 55 of Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.13, extraordinary certification of employees is conducted by the relevant certification commission in the following cases:

When there are changes in the norms and regulations in the field of nuclear energy use;

When new technical devices or technologies that pose potential hazards and have not been previously used are introduced;

If an employee has not performed their work functions for more than six months;

When an employee is found to have an insufficient level of knowledge of requirements in the field of radiation and nuclear safety, in accordance with a written order from the responsible person of the specially authorized body for checking the state of radiation and nuclear safety.

The following employees of operating organizations and other legal entities are subject to extraordinary certification by the certification commission of the specially authorized body:

Heads of organizations where an accident or fatal accident occurred, as well as employees involved in the incident;

Heads of organizations responsible for the professional training of the person or victim involved in the accident, as well as employees who participated in the training.

2.15. Main requirements for the safety justification of a Nuclear Power Plant unit

According to the Rules for Application for the Probabilistic Safety Analysis of a Nuclear Power Plant Unit, approved by the Resolution of the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan №23 dated 2 September 2025 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 8 October 2025, registration number 3684), the probabilistic safety analysis is conducted separately for each nuclear power plant unit.



Probabilistic safety analysis shall be conducted in the following cases:

- when preparing a safety justification report for the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant unit;
- during the periodic safety assessment of a nuclear power plant unit;
- to justify the extension of the operational lifetime of nuclear energy facilities;
- to justify changes in the limits and conditions of safe operation of a nuclear power plant unit;
- to justify modifications to systems and components of a nuclear power plant unit that are important for safety;
- to justify changes in the design and operational documentation.

Probabilistic safety analysis may not be required if it is justified and documented that the following conditions do not affect the potential safety indicators:

- changes in the limits and conditions of safe operation of a nuclear power plant unit;
- modifications to systems and components of a nuclear power plant unit that are important for safety; changes in the design and operational documentation.

Probabilistic Safety Assessment (PSA) includes two levels and is aimed at evaluating the total probability of the occurrence of severe and major accidents at a nuclear power plant unit during a year for all initiating events, operating modes, and areas where nuclear materials and radioactive substances are located. At the first level, a model of the power unit is developed for internal initiating events, taking into account all operating states, the reliability of systems and personnel, inter-system dependencies, and the sequence of development of abnormal situations, which makes it possible to determine the probability of severe accidents.

At the second level, the analysis covers both internal and external initiating events and is aimed at assessing the probability of major accidents involving releases, including the modeling of physical processes of severe accidents, loads on the containment, the magnitude of potential releases, and their consequences. The results of Level 1 PSA are used as input data, and the development of models includes the assessment of all nuclear materials, radioactive substances, and radioactive waste in the power unit.

In the event of changes affecting potential safety indicators, both PSA levels are subject to review and updating.

2.16. Procedure for extending the operational life of a Nuclear Power Plant unit

According to the Basic Requirements for Extending the Operational Life of a Nuclear Power Plant Unit, approved

by Resolution No. 22 of the Committee on Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 2, 2025 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 8, 2025, registration number 368), the Operating Organization of the Nuclear Power Plant (hereinafter referred to as the operating organization) is required, no later than 5 years before the expiration of the assigned or extended operational period, to conduct a safety assessment and, based on the results of this assessment, make a decision either to continue the operation of the nuclear power plant unit or to decommission it.

The decision to continue the operation of a nuclear power plant unit or to decommission it must be made with the involvement of the NPP and reactor design developers.

The decision to extend the operation of a nuclear power plant unit beyond the established or extended operational period is made by the operating organization based on:

- irreparable components of the nuclear power plant unit, as well as the results of the assessment of the remaining life of structural elements, buildings, facilities, and their foundations;
- results of the nuclear power plant unit safety assessment, including the outcomes of the periodic safety review;
- results of a comprehensive inspection of the nuclear power plant unit;
- information on changes in the characteristics of the NPP site during the previous operational period (including information on changes in seismicity);
- analysis of operational experience;
- compliance of the NPP unit with nuclear energy use norms and rules, as well as with the requirements of regulatory legal acts governing safety, effective at the time of the safety assessment;
- ability to ensure safety during the temporary storage of spent nuclear fuel generated during the additional operational period;
- ability to ensure safety during activities related to radioactive waste generated during the additional operational period;
- capability to ensure the safety of the NPP unit during its decommissioning.

After the decision to extend the operation of the NPP unit has been made, the operating organization is required to develop a program for preparing the NPP unit for the extended operational period based on the results of a comprehensive inspection:

- analysis of the NPP unit's compliance with safety requirements according to nuclear energy use norms and rules and other regulatory legal documents;
- justification of the residual life of structures, buildings, and facilities important for safety, and assessment of the condition of their foundations;
- justification and assessment of the residual life of the NPP unit components for the additional operational period;
- replacement of components whose service life is exhausted or whose residual life cannot be determined;
- elimination of non-compliances that contradict nuclear energy use norms and rules (or compensation for adverse effects on the NPP unit's safety);
- modernization of the NPP unit to ensure the safety of its operation;
- radiation survey of premises, equipment, and pipelines;
- testing of systems and components of the NPP unit in accordance with nuclear energy use norms and rules;
- development of a program for managing the lifespan of structures, buildings, facilities, systems, and components of the NPP unit during the extended operational period, taking into account planned replacement and/or modernization activities;
- development of measures to monitor the condition of structural elements, buildings, facilities, their foundations, as well as systems and components of the NPP unit during the extended operational period;
- development of a standard non-destructive testing program for metals, pipes, and other components during operation, in accordance with nuclear energy use norms and rules that specify requirements for inspection of base metals, welded joints, and welded surfaces during the operation of equipment, pipelines, and other NPP unit components in the extended operational period;
- preparation of a safety justification report for the NPP unit covering the entire extended operational period;
- incorporation of changes into operational documentation.

2.17. Rules for ensuring the safety of radiation sources

According to the Rules for Ensuring the Safety of Radiation Sources, approved by Resolution No. 24 of the Committee for Industrial, Radiation, and Nuclear Safety

under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 13 October 2025 (registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 28 October 2025, registration number 3695), radiation sources must be protected through a multi-level protection program (hereinafter referred to as the multi-level protection program), consisting of physical barriers and organizational-technical measures that ensure the protection of personnel, the public, and the environment, and prevent the spread of ionizing radiation and radionuclides.

Requirements for preventing violations of the rules for the placement and use of radiation sources must include:

- selection of a suitable location for radiation sources of Category 1 and 2;
- consideration of safety conditions during the design of radiation sources;
- equipping automatic safety systems of radiation sources with self-protection features;
- conducting technical diagnostics of radiation source equipment within the timeframes established by the technological documentation, with mandatory elimination of identified defects.
- Elimination of deviations from the requirements of design documentation when using radiation sources must include:
- identification of deviations from the requirements established by the design documentation and elimination of the causes of their occurrence;
- deviations from the requirements specified in the design documentation are monitored by technical systems, and automatic safety systems are triggered.
- Requirements for preventing accidents not covered by the design of radiation sources must include:
- prevention of accidents not anticipated by the design documentation of the radiation sources, and preservation of the integrity of the premises where the radiation sources are located;
- removal of radioactive substances from the radiation sources within 24 hours using automatic safety systems.

Organizational measures and technical solutions provided for by the multi-level defense program are defined in the design documentation, taking into account the levels of risk associated with the use of ionizing radiation sources. Organizational and technical measures for the prevention and mitigation of the consequences of possible radiation accidents are carried out in accordance with the requirements of SanPiN No. 0193-06, which includes the Radiation Safety Standards (NRB-2006) and the Basic Sanitary Rules for Ensuring Radiation Safety (OSPORB-2006).

During the design of radiation sources, the reliability of automatic safety systems, potential accident scenarios, and possible consequences are subject to analysis; any identified deficiencies must be eliminated in a timely manner. The results of the analysis of radiation consequences of accidents serve as the basis for preparing protection plans for workers and the public, including measures for evacuation and for restricting access to affected areas.

The commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of ionizing radiation sources are carried out in strict accordance with the requirements of SanPiN No. 0193-06, including NRB-2006 and OSPORB-2006.

2.18. Tax benefits and preferences

According to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation "On Cooperation in the Construction of a Nuclear Power Plant on the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan," signed on September 7, 2018, a number of tax benefits are provided for participants in the implementation of the construction of the nuclear power plant in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Exempt from taxation:

- Russian authorized organizations (including the general contractor);
- Russian subcontracted organizations;
- Organizations from third countries engaged by Russian authorized organizations;

The following assets and activities of the aforementioned participants in the construction of the nuclear power plant:

- Operations
- Capital
- Assets
- Cash
- Income and profit
- Their personnel

are exempt from all types of taxes, fees, and duties, including:

- Profit tax
- Value-added tax (VAT)
- Persona income tax of personnel
- Property tax
- State duties
- Excise taxes
- Mandatory contributions to state target funds
- and others

Also, the following goods imported by Russian authorized organizations, Russian subcontracted organizations, and organizations from third countries engaged by Russian authorized organizations are exempt from customs duties levied in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

Equipment, materials, spare parts, devices, instruments, nuclear fuel in the form of complete fuel assemblies and control and protection system rods in quantities necessary for the commissioning and operation of the nuclear power plant, component products, documentation, computer programs (software), etc.



SECTION III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study allows us to conclude that a comprehensive and mature legal system regulating the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes has been established in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main results of the conducted analysis can be summarized as follows.

A comprehensive national legal framework has been created in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the cornerstone of which is the Law "On the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes." This legislative act has laid the systemic foundations for regulating the entire life cycle of nuclear energy facilities — from the design and siting stage to decommissioning and the management of radioactive waste. The regulatory framework is characterized by dynamic development and continuous updating in accordance with the needs of large-scale projects being implemented.

The full integration of the country into international regimes of nuclear safety, non-proliferation, and civil liability has been ensured. Uzbekistan's consistent accession to key international conventions, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, demonstrates a commitment to the highest international standards and establishes a solid legal foundation for international cooperation.

An effective institutional architecture has been established, based on a fundamental separation of functions between state management of nuclear energy development and independent state safety regulation. The clear distribution of competencies between authorized management bodies and regulatory authorities aligns with advanced international practice and constitutes a fundamental condition for the safe implementation of the nuclear program.

The implementation of the nuclear energy development program is carried out within the framework of a strategic partnership with the Russian Federation. The concluded bilateral agreements establish clear parameters of cooperation, including project structure, allocation of responsibilities between the parties, and strict adherence to international standards of nuclear and radiation safety.

Reliable safety mechanisms have been implemented in the national legal system, covering all stages of the life cycle of nuclear energy facilities. Strict requirements have been established in the areas of licensing, state accounting and control of nuclear materials, physical protection, emergency preparedness, as well as the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

Modern legal institutions for financial liability and long-term obligations have been established. The legislative establishment of operator liability for caused damage, mandatory civil liability insurance, and the mechanism for creating decommissioning funds provides comprehensive financial protection for the interests of society and the state.

Systematic attention is given to the development of human resources and ensuring transparency principles.

Detailed regulation of personnel training and certification processes guarantees the required level of qualification for industry employees.

Uzbekistan continues to implement a multi-vector policy in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy, focusing on the diversification of partnerships and technologies. On September 26, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding on the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the U.S. Department of State, opening opportunities for experience exchange, industrial cooperation, and specialist training.

The "Uzatom" Agency stated that it is studying small modular reactor (SMR) technologies, including certified projects from Holtec, GE Hitachi, and NuScale.

According to the Agency, the country continues cooperation with other countries, including China, on small modular reactor technologies and uranium processing. The Agency noted that the study of American SMR technologies is part of the analysis of advanced solutions for selecting reliable and economically efficient technologies.

At the same time, an analysis of the practical implementation of these obligations reveals certain discrepancies between regulatory requirements and actual practice. For example, although Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention explicitly provides for public consultation prior to decisions on the construction of facilities that may have significant environmental impact, in Uzbekistan the actual sequence of events turned out to be reversed.

According to official reports, the construction of the nuclear power plant in the Farish District of the Jizzakh Region began on October 9, 2025, while public hearings on the project are scheduled only for November–December 2025. Such practice is not unique and has already occurred in neighboring countries in the region, which has been repeatedly examined by the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention.

For example, in case ACCC/C/2014/104 (Kingdom of the Netherlands), the Aarhus Committee noted that the extension of the operational lifetime of the Borssele nuclear power plant was carried out without proper public participation prior to the decision, which was qualified as a violation of Article 6 of the Convention.

Similar violations have been observed in other countries, although they were not related to nuclear power plants. Only some of them:

- In the Republic of Belarus (ACCC/C/2009/37, 2009), public hearings on the project for the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the Neman River, held at a late stage of the process, effectively deprived the public of the opportunity to influence decisions, which was qualified as a violation of Articles 4 and 6 of the Convention;

- In Ukraine (ACCC/C/2004/3, 2004), when considering the proposal to construct a navigation channel in the Danube Delta through an internationally recognized wetland, late notification and limited access to EIA materials hindered full public participation, violating Articles 1 and 6 of the Convention;
- In the Republic of Kazakhstan (ACCC/C/2011/59, 2011), formal public hearings on the "South West Roads Project: Western Europe-Western China International Transit Corridor" in the South Kazakhstan Region were conducted without providing sufficient opportunity for public opinion expression and participation in the state environmental expertise process, which violated Article 6 of the Convention.

During the analysis of Uzbekistan's international documents within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States, it was established that the Republic of Uzbekistan participates in six international documents, including agreements, concepts, and plans. At the same time, the status of participation in some of these documents requires clarification.

According to the response of one of the authorized bodies, the Republic of Uzbekistan participates in the following agreements; however, they have not yet entered into force due to the incompleteness of domestic procedures:

1. Agreement on the Transboundary Transport of Radioactive Materials among CIS Member States (November 6, 2020) — participation confirmed, but the document has not entered into force.
2. Agreement on Cooperation among CIS Member States in the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data (June 8, 2023) — participation confirmed, but the document has not entered into force.

In addition, the status of the Republic of Uzbekistan's participation in the following three documents remains unclear:

1. Action Plan for the Implementation of the First Stage (2021–2025) of the Framework Cooperation Program of CIS Member States in the Field of Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy for the Period up to 2030 (November 6, 2020);
2. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Program for the Development of National Nuclear Infrastructures of CIS Member States (December 2, 2022);
3. Program for the Development of National Nuclear Infrastructures of CIS Member States (December 2, 2022).

If the Republic of Uzbekistan participates in the aforementioned documents, their total number would reach eleven.

It should be noted that Appendix 4 to Uzbekistan's third national report to the IAEA, "On the Fulfillment of

Obligations Arising from the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management" (2024), indicates participation in only one international agreement within the CIS framework. This creates uncertainty. If Uzbekistan's participation in the remaining agreements has indeed been terminated, such information was not found by us in either official sources or as a result of directed inquiries. If participation has not been terminated, then the data in Appendix 4 may not fully reflect the current status of participation in the respective international agreements.

A similar situation is observed regarding agreements with the Russian Federation. In Appendix 4 to Uzbekistan's third national report to the IAEA, "On the Fulfillment of Obligations Arising from the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management" (2024), it is stated that the Republic of Uzbekistan participates in only three agreements with the Russian Federation, namely:

1. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy, dated December 22, 1997;
2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes, dated December 29, 2017;
3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Construction of a Nuclear Power Plant on the Territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated September 7, 2018.

However, during our study, it was found that the Republic of Uzbekistan also participates in another agreement — the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Prompt Notification of a Nuclear Accident and Exchange of Information in the Field of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, signed in Tashkent on November 18, 2021, and in Moscow on November 19, 2021. Information regarding the termination of this agreement is also absent from available sources and was not provided by the authorized bodies.

In response to a request to the authorized state body, a list of international documents regulating the peaceful use of atomic energy was provided. In our opinion, the list may not cover all active international legal instruments. In particular, it does not include:

1. Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (September 8, 2006);

- 2. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (April 13, 2005);
- 3. Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (June 25, 1998).

This circumstance underscores the relevance of creating a single centralized information source that would provide systematic and comprehensive access to information on the Republic of Uzbekistan's international obligations in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy.

Thus, the identified discrepancies indicate the need to clarify and update information on the Republic of Uzbekistan's participation in international documents, which would ensure a more accurate reflection of the country's international legal obligations and enhance the transparency of the relevant reporting. At the same time, the detected inconsistencies only underscore the importance of the recommendations presented by us below.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the Republic of Uzbekistan has undertaken extensive work to establish a modern, balanced, and internationally compliant legal framework for the safe and sustainable development of nuclear energy.

Recommendation on the creation of a unified information and communication portal for state bodies involved in the regulation of the peaceful use of atomic energy

During the preparation of this document, certain difficulties were noted in obtaining complete and consistent information on the Republic of Uzbekistan's international obligations in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy.

In order to clarify a number of provisions, official requests were sent to the competent state bodies, including the Agency for Atomic Energy under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Committee on Industrial, Nuclear, and Radiation Safety under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that during interactions with the aforementioned agencies, obtaining comprehensive information on a number of issues proved difficult, apparently due to the absence of a unified mechanism for interagency data exchange and a centralized information support system. In the context of such a priority and sensitive area as the use of atomic energy and ensuring nuclear and radiation safety, the presence of an established and operational system of interagency cooperation appears to be an extremely important condition for effective governance, transparency, and the fulfillment of the Republic of Uzbekistan's international obligations.

Analysis of the existing practice of interaction among the authorized state bodies has shown that there is no unified centralized system enabling the prompt access

to information on:

- international treaties, agreements, and conventions in which the Republic of Uzbekistan is a participant or party;
- normative and subordinate legal acts regulating the use of atomic energy in the country;
- the competences and functions of various state bodies in the field of atomic energy regulation;
- the results of approvals, expert reviews, and adopted decisions concerning nuclear energy and the handling of radioactive substances and waste.

The absence of a unified information resource leads to several systemic problems:

1. Inefficient interagency information exchange, involving the need for repeated forwarding of requests between bodies and duplication of functions;
2. Difficulties in access for researchers, industry specialists, and international partners, hindering the analysis and monitoring of regulatory and practical aspects of nuclear energy;
3. Lack of transparency and public availability of data, limiting opportunities for public oversight and citizen participation in discussions related to the use of atomic energy;
4. Failure to provide requested information to individuals and legal entities within the established timeframe may entail a risk of violating Article 3 of the Aarhus Convention "On Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters" of June 25, 1998, as well as the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 445 "On Appeals of Individuals and Legal Entities" of September 11, 2017;
5. The lack of the possibility to contact authorized bodies in the field of atomic energy through the portal <https://pm.gov.uz/> complicates the process of obtaining information for citizens and legal entities.

In this regard, it is proposed to create a unified state electronic information and communication portal, ensuring:

1. Centralized placement of international treaties, agreements, conventions, and other international legal documents in which the Republic of Uzbekistan is a participant or party, with the ability to search by key parameters and update data;
2. Integration among all competent authorities, including the Agency for Atomic Energy, the Committee on Industrial, Nuclear, and Radiation Safety, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its structural subdivisions, and the Ministry of Energy, aimed at simplifying information exchange and eliminating duplication of functions;

3. Automated exchange of information and documents between bodies, including notifications of new entries, changes in the regulatory framework, and the status of requests;
4. Official placement of international treaties, action plans, and concepts in the field of peaceful use of atomic energy, as well as official publication of national legislation, including regulatory acts, by-laws, regulations, sanitary rules, orders, and decrees of ministries and authorized bodies, since searching for such documents on existing resources presents certain difficulties;
5. Ensuring openness and accessibility of information for a wide range of users, including researchers, industry specialists, international partners, as well as legal and natural persons, while complying with legislation on confidential information;
6. Creation of an archive of responses to inquiries, which will allow tracking the history of requests, ensuring control over compliance with legally established deadlines, and generating analytical reports on the statistics of inquiries and the efficiency of the authorities;
7. Functionality for supporting feedback and requests, enabling citizens and organizations to promptly receive responses, while allowing authorities to record deadlines and ensure transparent documentation of the review process.

The implementation of this recommendation will allow:

- to increase the transparency of the activities of state authorities in the field of atomic energy;
- to create conditions for more effective interagency coordination and interaction;
- to strengthen public trust in the state regulatory system for the use of atomic energy;
- to ensure the exercise of constitutional rights to free access to information and the fulfillment of the state's obligations under the Aarhus Convention, as well as prompt access to reliable data for industry specialists, researchers, and international partners;
- to minimize the risks of function duplication, delays in information provision, and dissemination of inaccurate data;
- to contribute to the formation of an analytical basis for subsequent decisions and policies in the field of atomic energy.

Thus, the creation of a unified information and communication portal will become an important tool for improving public administration, enhancing regulatory efficiency, and integrating the Republic of Uzbekistan into the international community on issues of the peaceful use of atomic energy.



LIST OF REFERENCES

This guidance has been developed based on publications of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the CIS Commission for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy (CIS Atom), and the regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The IAEA, CIS Atom, and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan bear no responsibility for the interpretation or use of the information contained herein.

International Instruments:

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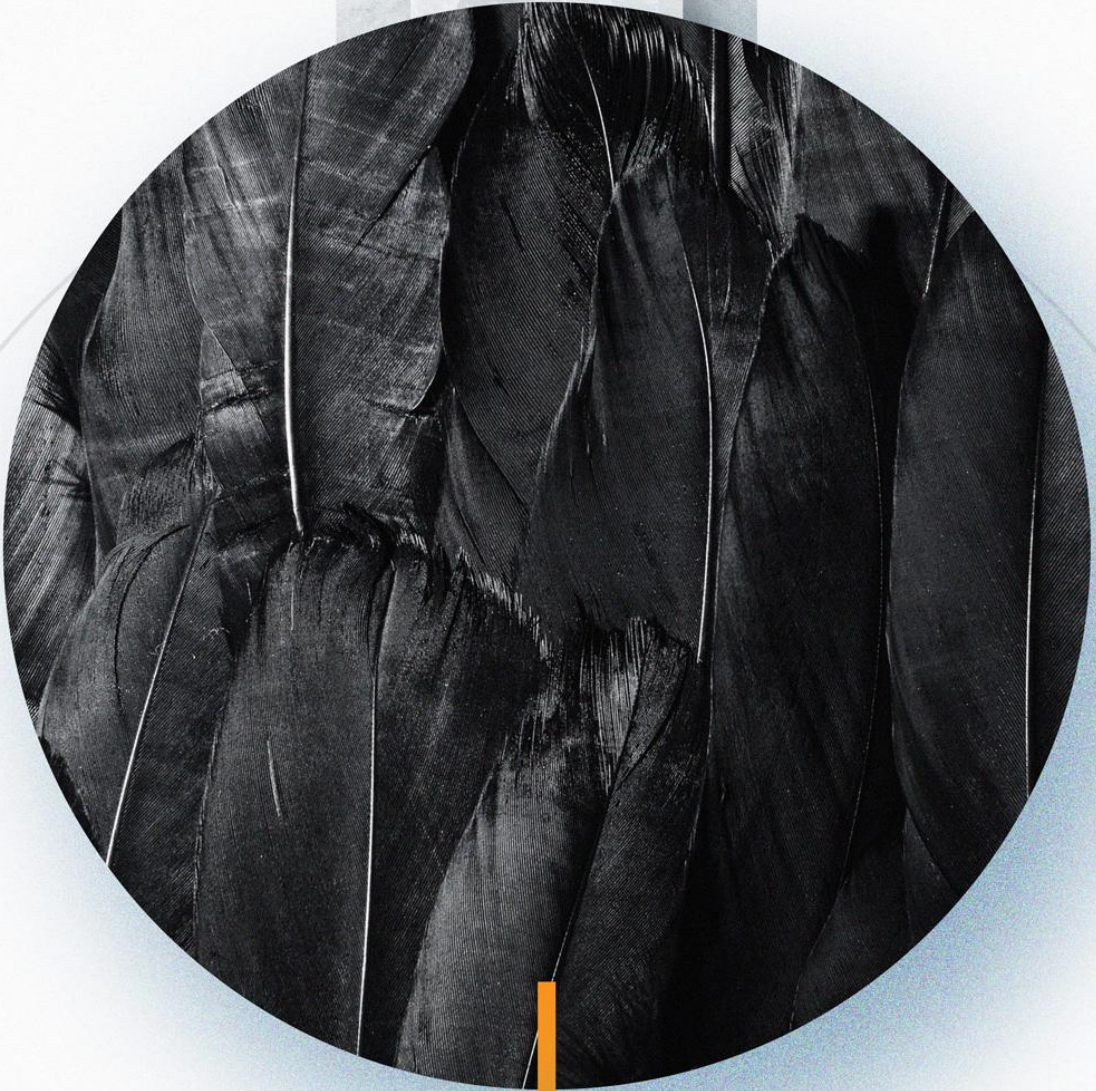
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