



# Impact assessment of nuclear energy related activities

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**Tallinn, 20-21 September 2012**





# Outline

- IAIA «Energy future» Conference (May/June 12): UNECE session on impact assessment of nuclear energy-related activities
- Proposed Guidance on application of the Convention to nuclear energy-related activities
- Seminar by AU, FIN and S





# IAIA Conference



- **IAIA12 Energy Future: The Role of Impact Assessment (28 May - 1 June 2012)**
- Importance of the Convention and the Protocol highlighted
- Session on “Impact Assessment of nuclear energy related activities”, convened and chaired by UNECE secretariat, Tea Aulavuo
- To discuss current practice in EIA and SEA of nuclear projects





# IAIA Conference: Presentations in the session

- 1) Lessons for IA from the Fukushima nuclear accident:**  
Sachihiko Harashina
- 2) Social impacts induced by radiation risk in Fukushima:**  
(Takehiko Murayama)
- 3) Uranium mining and Indigenous Peoples: The role of SIA:** Geordan Graetz
- 4) Fuel choice, nuclear energy, climate and carbon:**  
Al Shpyth
- 5) EA practice in radioactive waste disposal projects:** Mark Gough, Alastair Macdonald





# IAIA Conference: Current challenges and impacts

- 1) Lessons from Fukushima not learned, in terms of legislation, public information, stakeholder engagement (pro-development pressure too strong)
- 2) **Loss of trust** in local areas as a result of lack of or deficient communication on radiation risk
- 3) **EIA not effective (too restrictive) with respect to fuel choices** in energy generation.
- 4) **Conflicts and mistrust** between uranium mining companies and local communities; impact assessment lacks consideration of human and indigenous rights





# Recommendations

- **Further develop and use SEAs, incorporating life cycle assessment information, for fuel choice in electricity generation, to maximize climate benefits**
  - Provides more complete view of environmental impacts and of role of nuclear energy in mitigating climate and carbon impacts of increased electricity production
  - Allows proper comparison of the adverse impacts and external costs related to nuclear energy.





# Recommendations

- **Improve understanding of public perception of radiation risk; (re)build trust; effectively communicate about risks through engaging stakeholders into dialogue and providing objective information**
- **Engage local communities in EIA/SEA, to build public trust and acceptance for project implementation , and to create employment opportunities**





# Recommendations

- Carry out SEA(/EIA) of radioactive waste management as part of **strategic options study**; balance strategic focus with information of potential effects; integrate views of different technical disciplines; consider wider sustainability issues and radiological safety issues.
- Further develop **human rights impact assessment**







# Workplan 2011-14

## Exchange of good practices

1 day seminar

Biodiversity  
(Belgium with EC)



WG Nov 2013  
MOP 2014

Renewable energy: wind farms, renewable fuels (incl. biomass), large-scale solar (Poland, Portugal, with of REC-CEE)

1 day seminar

**Long-range impacts of nuclear energy related activities**  
(Austria, Finland and Sweden)





# Guidance on Convention's application to nuclear energy-related activities

- Secretariat's background note (ECE/MP.EIA/2011/5)
- June 2011: Panel discussion held at MOP-5
- Jan 2012: Bureau's proposals: possible guidance to codify practical experience; case studies to support Convention's application to nuclear energy-related activities
- April 12: Working Group supported proposals:
  - Build on secretariat's background document
  - Build on seminar by AU, FIN, S (forum for sharing experiences) Nov 2012
- Mid 2014: Poss. adoption at MOPs





# Welcome update by FIN and S on the preparations for the workshop on long-range impacts of nuclear energy related activities

