

# 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## National report pursuant to action 20 of the action plan of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

### Report submitted by Colombia

1. This report is submitted pursuant to action 20 of the action plan to implement the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in New York from 3 to 28 May 2010.
2. Action 20 states the following:

“States parties should submit regular reports, within the framework of the strengthened review process for the Treaty, on the implementation of the present action plan, as well as of article VI, paragraph 4 (c), of the 1995 decision entitled ‘Principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament’, and the practical steps agreed to in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.”

### Pillar 1: Disarmament (actions 1–22)

3. With regard to disarmament and non-proliferation, Colombia respects and promotes multilateralism as a means of conducting productive negotiations and finding consensus so as to make progress towards common goals and plans of action that uphold the principles of international peace and security. Colombia has promoted general and complete disarmament, both politically and in the relevant forums, and has participated in all multilateral initiatives with that aim.
4. On 14 February 1967, the Government of Colombia signed the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the first instrument signed by the country on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Through the Treaty, the first densely populated nuclear-weapon-free zone was established, thus contributing to strengthening the aforementioned principles. The Treaty of Tlatelolco entered into force for Colombia on 6 September 1972.
5. Colombia signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 1 July 1968 and ratified it on 8 April 1986 in Washington, D.C. It entered into force for the country on 30 April of that same year.



6. As a non-nuclear-weapon State, Colombia advocates effective compliance with article VI of the Treaty, under which the parties undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament.
7. As a further demonstration of its commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and to complete and verifiable disarmament, the Government of Colombia signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 24 September 1996 and ratified it on 29 January 2008. Since then, it has encouraged all States to sign and ratify this instrument, with a view to its early entry into force and universalization.
8. Colombia signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 3 August 2018. The corresponding domestic procedure in the legislature and the respective constitutional review, necessary for ratification of this instrument, are pending.
9. Within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament, Colombia has expressed its support for the negotiation and entry into force of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.
10. Colombia traditionally supports United Nations General Assembly resolutions on disarmament, non-proliferation and the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Similarly, as a State party to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Colombia supports resolutions that promote and encourage the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

#### **Pillar 2: Non-proliferation (actions 23–46)**

11. Colombia recognizes the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the sole authority competent to verify that nuclear activities are peaceful in nature and that they contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It also understands that safeguards agreements and additional protocols, and verification by IAEA, are a legal commitment by the States parties to the full implementation of the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and a confidence-building measure, as they demonstrate the transparency of States regarding their civilian nuclear activities.
12. An agreement for the application of safeguards has been in force between Colombia and IAEA since 1 July 1983 and an additional protocol to that agreement since 5 March 2009. These instruments fulfil the country's commitments under the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
13. Since the entry into force of these two instruments, IAEA has made information verification visits and/or inspections between November and December every year to the IAN-R1 nuclear research reactor (the country's only nuclear facility), which is operated by the Colombian Geological Service and is currently used for the irradiation of geological samples in order to ascertain their composition (elemental analysis by neutron activation analysis).
14. Colombia was elected as a new member of the Board of Governors of IAEA for the period 2021–2022 at the sixty-fifth regular session of the IAEA General Conference, which was held from 20 to 24 September 2021. As a newly elected Board member, Colombia will seek to strengthen the technical cooperation programme, by expanding its scope and its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, while also promoting greater inclusion of women in the area of nuclear science and technology. Colombia was also elected to represent the Group of 77 and China as Vice-Chair of the Board for the period 2021–2022.
15. Colombia made progress in implementing action 42 of the plan of action of the 2010 Review Conference, which calls on States parties to the Convention on the

Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify the amendment to the Convention. By means of Act No. 1572 of 2 August 2012, Colombia adopted the amendment to the Convention and ratified it on 18 February 2014.

16. The country participates in the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, which aims to facilitate the timely exchange of authorized information between States on incidents of illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities involving nuclear and radioactive materials. Colombia also implements the 2003 Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.

### **Pillar 3: Peaceful uses of nuclear energy (actions 47–64)**

17. Colombia attaches great importance to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to international cooperation on the transfer of knowledge, equipment and technologies in this field, which is a fundamental pillar of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Strengthening international cooperation is important given the contribution of nuclear applications in areas that are key for development and hence to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Colombia has been a State party to the IAEA statute since 1960. As a State member of IAEA, Colombia participates actively in its technical cooperation programme, which is the main mechanism for promoting nuclear applications in areas that are key for development, such as health, energy and environment, and for strengthening nuclear safety and security. The technical cooperation programme is the principal means by which the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are fostered.

18. Colombia recognizes the valuable technical cooperation efforts made by IAEA in 2020 and 2021 to strengthen the national capacities of member States to combat the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In that connection, Colombia is grateful to IAEA for approving the interregional technical cooperation project on supporting national and regional capacity for the adoption of integrated measures to control zoonotic diseases, within the framework of the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action initiative. This project will contribute to strengthening the zoonotic agent laboratory network and to scientific and technical consolidation of the approach to zoonotic agents.

19. From 1 to 12 April 2019, the Office of Internal Oversight Services of IAEA conducted a country-level evaluation and audit in Colombia (in the Colombian Geological Service, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research, the National University of Colombia, the National Cancer Research Institute, the Francisco José de Caldas District University and the Antonio Nariño University).

20. As a result of the evaluation and audit, IAEA has recognized the efforts of Colombia to continuously improve the training of its national personnel and the institutional capacity of the bodies that execute the various cooperation projects, as well as the commitment of its National Liaison Office, which is responsible for facilitating and leading the technical cooperation programme with IAEA.

21. Colombia is actively working on eight national projects with IAEA, which have been carried out pursuant to the national programmatic structure, in line with the National Development Plan 2018–2022, “Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity”. In addition, within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean, Colombia is actively working on 39 regional projects. The areas to which Colombia is giving priority, and to which these projects belong, are as follows: radiation safety

and protection, human health, agriculture and food security, environment, mining and energy.

22. Colombia is leading a cooperation project approved in 2019 on improving regional testing capacities and programmes for monitoring residues/contaminants in food using nuclear/isotopic and complementary techniques within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. This is the first time that Colombia has led a regional project under the IAEA technical cooperation programme.

23. Colombia signed the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean on 11 December 1998 and ratified it on 9 June 2009. On 3 July 2020, Colombia deposited with the IAEA secretariat its instrument of acceptance of the Second Extension Agreement, which extends the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean for a further five years with effect from 5 September 2020.

24. In 2019, Colombia hosted the International Symposium on Nuclear Applications, with the participation of the Director of the Technical Cooperation Division for Latin America and the Caribbean of IAEA, Luis Longoria (Bogotá, 5–8 November), and the midterm coordination meeting to follow up on the IAEA technical cooperation project “Strengthening the regional capacities in the prevention and progressive control of screwworm” (Medellín, 25–29 November). Although the face-to-face events scheduled to take place in Colombia in 2020 were cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the country hosted a visit from the Administrative Officer of the technical cooperation programme for Colombia from 9 to 13 March 2020.

25. Colombia has an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (pending signature with IAEA), whose key activities are primarily aimed at strengthening the national regulatory framework on nuclear security, threats and risks, and the physical protection of radioactive sources and nuclear material. Support for the execution of the Plan has been provided by the Division of Nuclear Power and the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of IAEA.

26. In that connection, with the support of the Division of Nuclear Power and the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security of IAEA, during the period 2016–2017, phase one of a project was completed, which involved securing and consolidating 11 category 1 and 2 cobalt-60 sources, declared disused, which had been employed in various hospitals in the country for cancer treatment.

27. Phase two of this project was carried out in 2019 and 2020, and involved securing nine high activity radioactive sources held by users, which had been used in external radiotherapy equipment for the treatment of neoplastic diseases. The project was executed in accordance with the highest standards of physical security and radiation safety, and also biosafety, given that this phase was completed in the midst of the COVID-19-induced national health emergency. As a result of the project, 20 high activity radioactive sources were secured and consolidated in the centralized facility for the radioactive waste management operated by the Colombian Geological Service. In addition to reducing nuclear risk, the project made it possible to improve capacities for coordination at the national level between the different bodies with competence in radiation safety and physical security and in the transportation of this type of material in accordance with international standards.