

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

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Report on the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Report submitted by the Czech Republic

1. The present report sets out a general overview of steps and measures undertaken by the Czech Republic in the implementation of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.
2. During the previous review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Czech Republic submitted in May 2004, on the occasion of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference, a report with a general overview of steps and measures undertaken by the Czech Republic in the implementation of article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.
3. The Czech Republic reaffirms all the elements of the position of principle contained therein. The present report is focused on the measures undertaken by the Czech Republic since the conclusion of the 2015 Review Conference.
4. Throughout the reporting period, the Czech Republic continued to act in line with its non-proliferation policy and commitments, to strongly support the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to fully support the efforts of the international community towards nuclear disarmament under effective international control.
5. The Czech Republic has undertaken the following measures and participated in the following activities, which are of direct relevance to nuclear non-proliferation, safety, security and safeguards:
 - (a) Following a thorough review of the Czech Republic by the Integrated Regulatory Review Service, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) stated in a preliminary report that the system of regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in the Czech Republic is “robust” and that the State Office for Nuclear Safety is an effective and independent regulator. The 12-day visit mission, composed of experts in nuclear supervision and radiation protection from other States, took place at the request of the Czech Government. The Czech Republic is currently working towards requesting a new mission of the Integrated Regulatory Review



Service for 2022, to maintain a 10-year periodicity in line with internal guidelines of the State Office for Nuclear Safety;

(b) The Czech Republic adopted a new Atomic Act, which was published in the Collection of Laws as Act No. 263/2016 Coll. and distributed on 10 August 2016. The new Atomic Act enhances both the form and content of the 19-year-old legislation in this field and contains a number of new features aimed at increasing the level of protection against the harmful effects of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation. The new legislation transposes the latest European Atomic Energy Community norms and standards of IAEA. The new Atomic Act is complemented by 20 new implementing regulations, which entered into force along with it;

(c) The Czech Republic participated in the Nuclear Security Summits, including the final Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington, D.C., in 2016. The Czech Republic meets, and in many aspects even exceeds, commitments agreed on by the Summits. During the final Summit, the Czech Republic also received the Atoms for Peace Award for becoming one of the first countries in the world to be free of high enriched uranium, after successful repatriation of all Czech high enriched uranium fuel back to the country of origin;

(d) In May 2017, the State Office for Nuclear Safety hosted an Integrated Regulatory Review Service follow-up mission, which assessed the quality of the national regulatory framework and its implementation of recommendations from the Service's original mission. The Service's follow-up expert team concluded that the vast majority of the 2013 requirements had been successfully met. At the end of the mission, representatives of IAEA stated that the new Atomic Act provided a solid basis for a robust safety framework and that the Czech Republic had made significant progress, especially in the areas of human resources, long-term strategies and the enforceability of legislative requirements;

(e) On 25 and 26 May 2018, a bilateral meeting between the supervisory authorities of the Czech Republic and the People's Republic of China took place in Prague. The meeting was organized on the basis of a memorandum of understanding between the State Office for Nuclear Safety and the Chinese National Nuclear Security Administration on the exchange of technical information and cooperation in the field of nuclear safety. The Chinese delegation, led by the Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and the Chair of the Chinese National Nuclear Security Administration, Hua Liu, met with the Chair of the State Office for Nuclear Safety, Dana Drábová, and other experts of the State Office. A substantial part of the meeting was focused on discussion of the cooperation programme for the period 2018–2019, which was focused on the exchange of experiences in the field of nuclear safety, radiation protection, crisis management and legislative issues. At the end of the meeting, the Chair of the Chinese National Nuclear Security Administration and the Chair of the State Office for Nuclear Safety signed the cooperation programme 2018–2019 and agreed on having another meeting in the following year;

(f) The Czech Republic holds annual bilateral meetings with Austria and Germany. The primary topics of these meetings are nuclear safety, radiation protection and other issues of common interest, such as developments in nuclear legislation, emergency preparedness and response and management of nuclear facilities. Particular attention is also paid to the Czech project on the deep geological repository, which recently managed to narrow down the number of potential suitable locations and is currently in the phase of selecting the final location. The Czech Republic also participates in annual quadrilateral meetings of nuclear regulatory authorities of the Visegrad Group member countries from Hungary, Poland and Slovakia;

(g) On 17 October 2018, an organizational meeting of the parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety took place. Delegates elected the President and two

Vice-Presidents of the Eighth Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which will take place in the first quarter of 2021. The Chair of the Czech nuclear regulator obtained the prestigious post of president of the Review Meeting by a consensus decision. The candidates of Australia and the Republic of Korea were elected as Vice-Presidents;

(h) The Czech Republic actively participated in the Symposium on International Safeguards, including in its preparation. The Symposium was held at IAEA headquarters in November 2018. This event takes place every four years in order to address current issues and trends in the approach to the verification of nuclear materials within the safeguards community. The Czech Republic contributed to the Symposium with three presentations. It participated in a poster panel, where it presented more than 20 years of experience with the use of Czech software for accounting for and control of nuclear materials. Another presentation of the representatives of the State Office for Nuclear Safety was devoted to an interactive demonstration of this software, including a demonstration of several model situations. At the request of IAEA, representatives of the State Office also participated in a panel devoted to experiences with strengthening the capacities of the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials. The last Czech presentation was devoted to the experience with sealing casks for the storage of spent nuclear fuel by the staff of the Dukovany nuclear power plant;

(i) In May 2019, the Czech Republic had a great exchange of views with representatives of the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office at the headquarters of the State Office for Nuclear Safety. The discussions took place in connection with the implementation of the Czech-Australian Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Transfers of Nuclear Materials. The discussion also touched upon the status of the treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, because both countries support adoption of this treaty;

(j) From 14 to 16 May 2019, the Czech Republic participated in the symposium of the European Safeguards Research and Development Association, which took place in Stresa, Italy. Experts from the Czech Republic participated on a panel devoted to regional safeguards systems and a panel on export control of strategic commodities. Thanks to the participation in this event, national experts had the unique opportunity to get acquainted with the latest trends in the implementation of IAEA and European Atomic Energy Community safeguards and to exchange practical experiences with colleagues from abroad;

(k) The Czech Republic continues the tradition of annual bilateral meetings with IAEA under the auspices of the Czech Republic's support programme to IAEA safeguards. In 2018, IAEA recognized the tradition of 15 years of the Czech Republic's support programme. The traditional areas of support are training and lecturing activities, development of analytical and detection methods and finally testing of new verification technologies at Czech nuclear facilities;

(l) In June 2020, the Advisory Panel of Experts recommended to the Director of the Radioactive Waste Repository Authority to reduce the number of potential deep geological repository candidate sites to four. The narrowing of the number of potential sites to four, approximately 30 years after the start of the deep geological repository project in the Czech Republic, is the first significant milestone on the way to a fully operational deep geological repository, which the Czech Republic intends to launch in 2065;

(m) The Czech Republic has also requested an International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission from IAEA with the aim of further strengthening the nuclear security regime and exchange of experiences and good practices. The

mission was scheduled for 2020 but has been postponed owing to the restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19);

(n) Since the previous Review Conference, the Czech Republic has made various contributions of over 40,000 euros primarily to the IAEA but also to other institutions and initiatives in fields such as the management of public, patient and worker exposures.
