



***Implementation of the Joint Convention
on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management
and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management***

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Background



- ❖ **After Chernobyl, the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) was developed to raise the level of nuclear safety around the world**
- ❖ **CNS applied to civilian nuclear power only**
 - **U.S. Senate ratified on March 25, 1999. U.S. became a contracting party on April 11, 1999**
 - **CNS contains a preamble affirming a commitment to develop a Convention for radioactive waste**
 - **CNS process is working well**

Background (continued)



- ❖ **The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) was adopted by an IAEA Diplomatic Conference and opened for signature in September 1997**
 - **Secretary of Energy Federico Peña signed the Joint Convention in September 1997, for the U.S.**
 - **The Joint Convention entered into force on June 18, 2001, 90 days after ratification by 25 countries (Contracting Parties)**

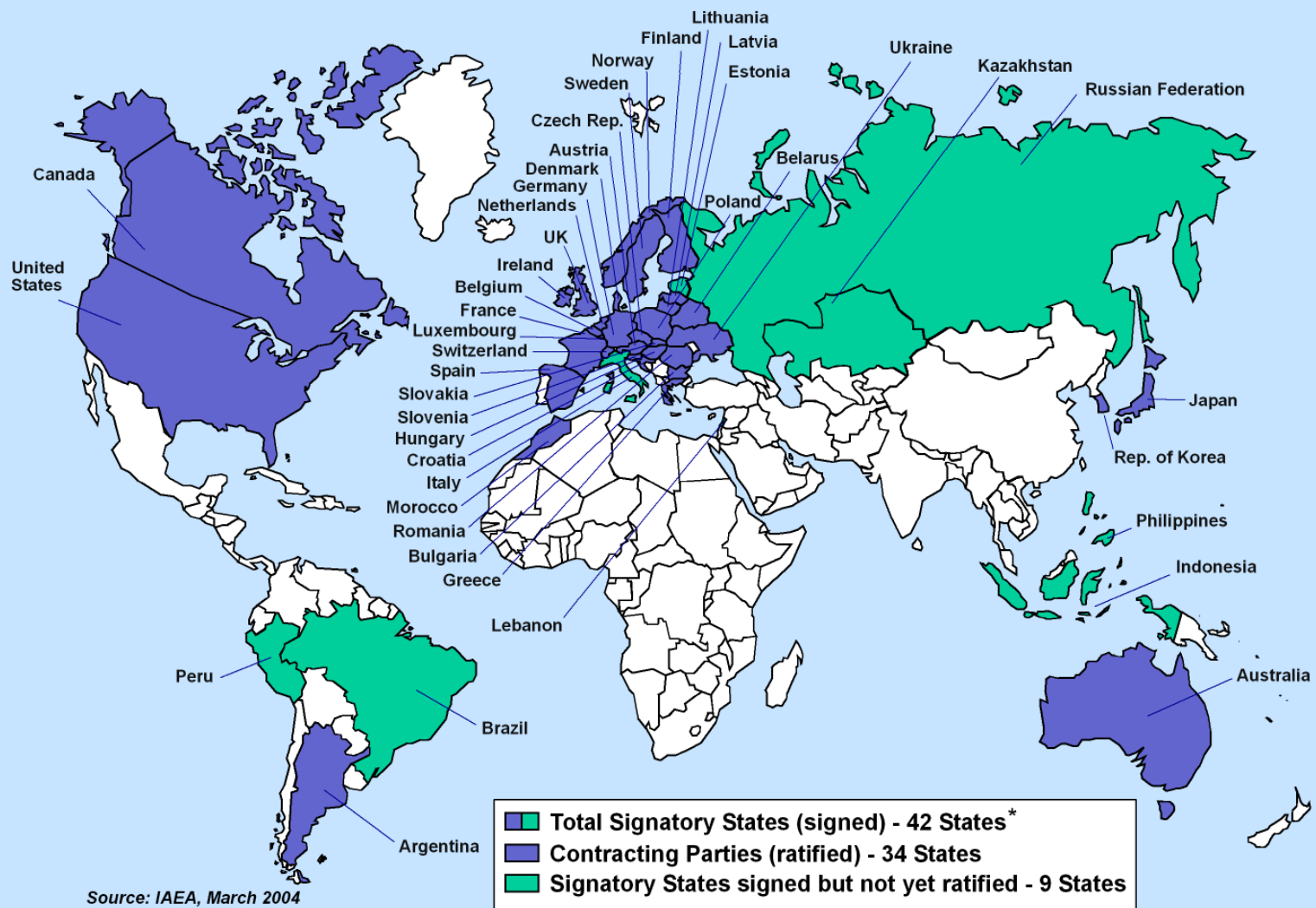
Purpose



❖ **The Joint Convention:**

- **establishes a commitment with respect to safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste**
- **requires the Parties to “take appropriate steps” to ensure the safety of their spent fuel and waste management activities, but does not delineate standards the Parties must meet**
- **seeks to attain, through its Contracting Parties, a higher level of safety with respect to management of their spent nuclear fuel, disused sealed sources, and radioactive waste**

International Support



Source: IAEA, March 2004

* Japan is a Contracting Party but not yet a Signatory State

Source: IAEA, March 2004

U.S. Ratification



- ❖ **The U.S. Senate provided advice and consent allowing President Bush to formally ratify the Joint Convention in 2003**
- ❖ **Articles of ratification were deposited with IAEA on April 15, 2003**
- ❖ **The Joint Convention went into effect for the U.S. on July 15, 2003, allowing the U.S to fully participate in the first National Report Review in November 2003**

Process



❖ **Requires the preparation of a National Report:**

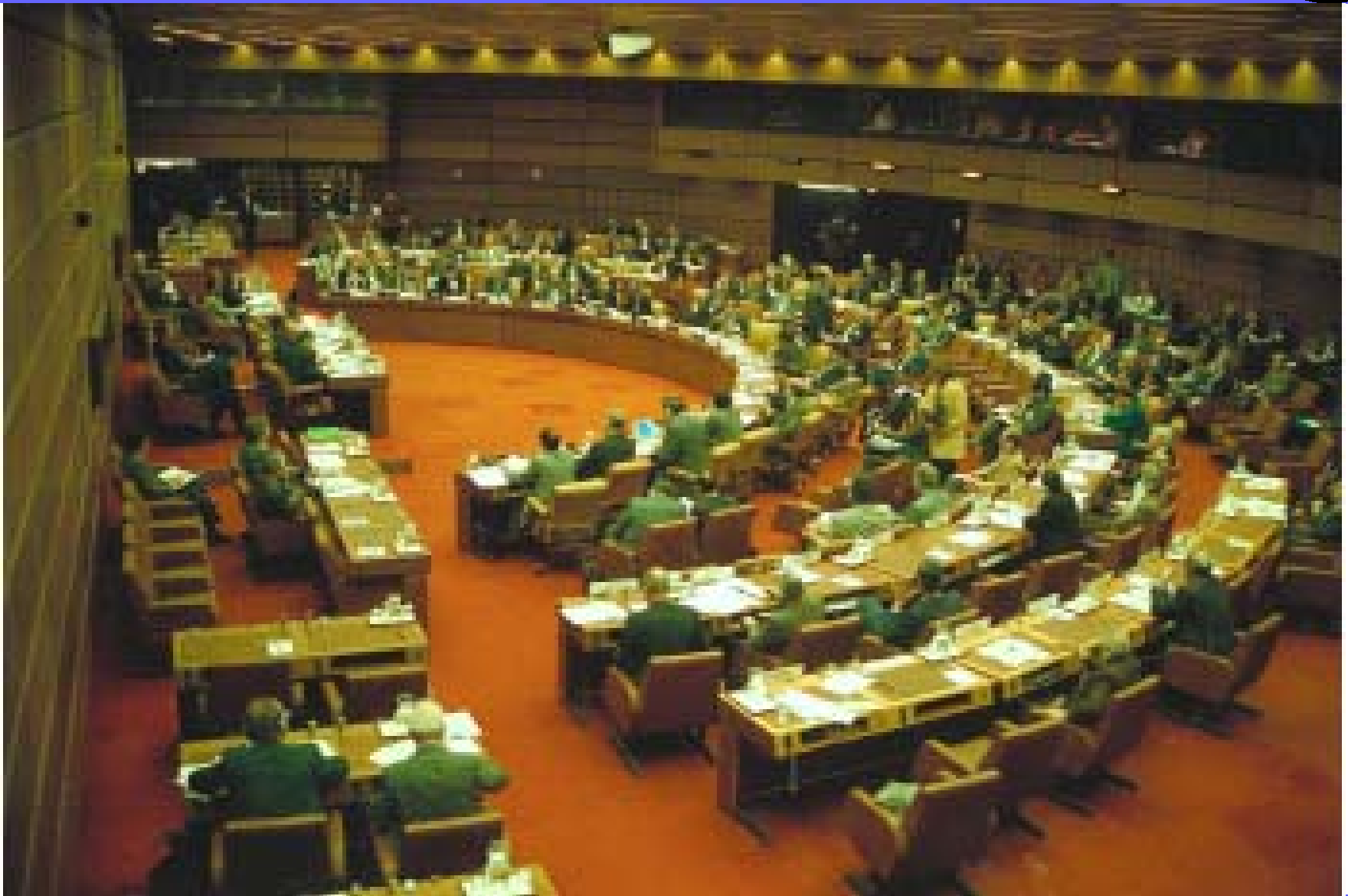
- **The Department of Energy is lead agency for preparation of the U.S. National Report, coordinating preparation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of State**
- **Report uses existing publicly available information and data**

Process (continued)



- ❖ **Requires participation in international review meetings every 3 years**
 - **Contracting Parties exchange, review and comment on National Reports**
 - **Contracting Parties are organized into country groups, currently 6 or 7 States per group**
 - **Country groups are forums for interactive review during 2-week review meeting**
 - **Contracting Parties may participate in subgroups other than their own subgroups**

Joint Convention Review Meeting



U.S. National Report



- **Completed May 5, 2004, and sent to Contracting Parties for review**
- **Average size compared to other nations' reports at 206 pages**
- **Detailed legislative and regulatory infrastructure**
- **Described experience with safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste including data on inventories and facilities**
- **Provided an integrated and comprehensive view of the U.S. National Program, including policies and practices**
- **Confirmed that the U.S. has a large, mature, high-quality, safe program with robust oversight**
- **Available at:**
http://web.em.doe.gov/integrat/National_Report_05-02-03_1.pdf

Benefits To U.S.



- ❖ **National Report review process provides:**
 - **A means of harmonizing management and assessment techniques used in agencies responsible for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste**
 - **A forum to integrate international approaches toward assessing and managing risks and raising the target level of safety associated with spent fuel, disused sealed sources, and radioactive waste, thus strengthening the worldwide safety culture**

Benefits (continued)



- **An opportunity to benefit from their experiences of other Contracting Parties**
- **An opportunity to influence the development of nuclear safety programs in other countries, through international cooperation on the life-cycle management of spent fuel and radioactive waste**
- **A means to identify possible areas for bilateral and multilateral technical and regulatory cooperation.**

Current Status



- ❖ **Update of U.S. National Report in progress**
- ❖ **Report will be transmitted to IAEA in September 2005**
- ❖ **Review and comment process in late 2005 and early 2006 by Contracting Parties**
- ❖ **Review Meeting at IAEA in May 2006**

Increased Participation Is Encouraged



- ❖ **European nations have highest participation**
- ❖ **Would be beneficial to have more nations from the Americas**
- ❖ **All nations can participate; most have some type of radioactive waste**
- ❖ **U.S. provided IAEA with an additional voluntary contribution to help promote the convention**
- ❖ **U.S. is willing to discuss our efforts and assist others**

Conclusions



- ❖ **Joint Convention process found to be valuable**
- ❖ **U.S. fully supports the Joint Convention**
- ❖ **Desires more nations in the Americas to consider and become parties to raise the regional and global safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management**
- ❖ **Joint Convention and the CNS will formulate a joint mechanism to strengthen the worldwide safety culture**