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Caribbean Regional Briefing by PGA on Nuclear and Radiological Security Project Overview of Review Conference of States Parties to A/CCPNM

Peter Barcroft, Senior Director, International Peace and Security Program, PGA



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PGA Regional Caribbean Parliamentary Webinar to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security



01 September, 2021

Related Campaign: [Campaign to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security](#)

On September 2nd, 2021, PGA's International Peace and Security Program organized a Regional Caribbean Parliamentary Webinar promoting Nuclear and Radiological Security, kindly supported by Global Affairs Canada. 19 participants joined this Webinar, including representatives from Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, in addition to representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Global Affairs Canada and well as PGA (PSP) staff.

This Webinar was the second in a series of 8 such Webinars, two in each of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean which PGA will organize over the course of the next 12 months, aimed at facilitating and encouraging parliamentary diplomacy among female and male parliamentarians to promote greater universality and implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and its Amendment (ACPPNM).

The Webinar was opened by Mr. Peter Barcroft, Senior Director of PGA's International Peace and Security Programme, providing an extensive overview of the contemporary importance of the subject matter of the event, also within the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the concomitant need for improved emergency preparedness to address several ongoing, existential threats. The importance of promoting the Women Peace and Security Agenda, mobilizing more women parliamentarians in this arena, was also underscored.

The first presentation from Ms. Francesca Andrian, Associate Programme Officer of the CBRN Terrorism Prevention Programme of the UNODC, introduced the participants to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and UNODC's related assistance programs and activities. The numerous benefits and advantages of joining ICSANT were also subsequently highlighted. The relevance and importance of ICSANT also in the context of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and the role of parliamentarians in its implementation – as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2325 (2016) was also reflected upon for the benefit of all Participants.

The second presentation was made by Mr. Jonathan Herbach, Legal Officer – Nuclear and Treaty Law Section at the Office of Legal Affairs of the IAEA, who conducted an in-depth review of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment, the numerous, substantial benefits accruing to States Parties as well as sharing with participants the wide range of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology currently being deployed by IAEA, including in addressing zoonotic diseases.

Subsequently, Senator Wade Mark, Chair of PGA National Group, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, made a substantive and informative contribution, recalling his past contributions in promoting greater biological security within Trinidad and Tobago and in the Caribbean region as a whole. Sen. Wade Mark also observed how the current pandemic had regrettably opened the eyes of non-state actors to the potential for devastation caused by Weapons of Mass Destruction, including the use of nuclear and radioactive materials. Senator Mark went on to acknowledge that a number of countries in the Caribbean region are still not States Parties to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of International Terrorism, the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and its Amendment and the concomitant desirability on the part of participants to raise this matter through appropriate avenues.

A rich, extensive interactive session subsequently ensued among all participants, many inquiring about steps they could take in their own countries to promote greater adherence to the three treaties in question. Hon. Speaker Manzoor Nadiir, from Guyana, said that it is important that PGA remains realistic in its expectations in the short term, but that ongoing engagement would be consequential in terms of seeking to make progress vis-à-vis the 3 treaties in question. Mr. Andy Daniel, immediate past Speaker of the Parliament of St. Lucia, for his part, recognized the immediate importance of the subject matter of the Webinars, the need to push home the message that the treaties in question are legally binding, as well as the importance of PGA continuing to work closely with Members of Parliament in St. Lucia. Thereafter, Hon. Ravi Pratsim, MP, Trinidad and Tobago, made the comment that it should not be forgotten that nuclear technologies can have crucial, peaceful applications as well, echoing what was articulated at greater length by Mr. Herbach from IAEA in his presentation, in particular in the arena of improved food safety and food security. Hon. Dr. Varma Deyasingh, MP, Trinidad and Tobago, inquired further about relevant international instruments regulating the transit/transshipment of nuclear materials and nuclear weapons in fragile areas and ecosystems, such as the Caribbean region.

Lastly, and before concluding, Mr. Florian Delsert, Program Associate, International Peace and Security Programme, PGA made a brief presentation setting out a number of different, pragmatic steps that Parliamentarians can take to promote universalization of ICSANT, CPPNM and its Amendment, as well as sharing with participants how Women, and their health, both directly and indirectly, are disproportionately impacted by Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), hence the importance also of greater mobilization of female parliamentarians in this arena.

For further information on PGA International Peace and Security Program's Global Parliamentary Campaign to Promote Nuclear and Radiological Security, please [click here](#)

Campaign Donor



Presentations

-  INTRODUCTION BY PETER BARCROFT
-  FRANCESCA ANDRIAN
UNODC PRESENTATION
-  JONATHAN HERBACH
IAEA PRESENTATION
-  SENATOR WADE MARK
-  FLORIAN DELSERT

List of Participants

Hon. Romel Springer	Barbados
Senator Cathiana Williams	Grenada
Hon. Manzoor Nadiir (Speaker)	Guyana
Ms. Carlitta Charles	Guyana
Ms. Christina Ramroop	Guyana
Michael Plenny	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Mr. Andy Daniel	Saint Lucia
Hon. Patrick Kensenhuis	Suriname
Sen. Wade Mark	Trinidad and Tobago



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PARLIAMENTARY HANDBOOK

on the Role of **Women Parliamentarians**
in Preventing the Proliferation
of **Weapons of Mass Destruction**



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- *Ukraine has 15 nuclear reactors producing half of its electricity.*
- *On February 24th, Russian forces took control of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Following, radiation levels increased about 20-fold as military vehicles stirred contaminated soil. The safety of the site remains vulnerable as unarmoured containment units are not designed to be operated in a war zone.*
- *On March 3rd, Russian military forces have launched a series of attacks in order to seize control of the Nuclear Plant of Zaporizhzhia, ultimately resulting in heavy damages to one of its buildings as well as damages to 2 reactors compartment and a waste storage facility.*
- *Since the beginning of the war, operating personnel in Ukrainian power plants have been working under pressure, and nuclear safety has been challenged or degraded in critical areas. In addition, the cooling systems of Ukrainian reactors could be compromised during the war.*



Nuclear plant of Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, March 5th



Confinement unit, Chernobyl, Ukraine

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CPPNM | Key Provisions

The CPPNM obliges States Parties to:

- Take specific measures and respect the defined standards of physical protection for international shipments of nuclear material for peaceful purposes (plutonium, uranium 235, uranium 233 and spent fuel)
- Undertake not to export or import nuclear materials or to authorize their transit through their territory unless they have been assured that such materials will be protected during international transport in accordance with the levels of protection determined by the Convention;
- Cooperate in the recovery and protection of stolen nuclear material, by sharing information on missing nuclear material;
- Criminalize specified acts, including the misuse or threat to misuse nuclear material to harm the public; and
- Prosecute or extradite those accused of committing such acts. States Parties undertake to include these offenses as extraditable offenses in any future extradition treaty to be concluded between them.

The Convention also provides a framework for international cooperation in the exchange of information on physical protection.

Target Signatory State Target Non-Signatory State



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Caribbean States Parties to CPPNM

- *Antigua and Barbuda*
- *Bahamas*
- *Dominica*
- *Dominican Republic*
- *Grenada*
- *Guyana*
- *Jamaica*
- *Saint Kitts and Nevis*
- *Saint Lucia*
- *Trinidad and Tobago*

Caribbean States not State Party to CPPNM

- *Barbados – targeted by PGA*
- *Belize – targeted by PGA*
- *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines – targeted by PGA*
- *Suriname – targeted by PGA*

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Amendment to CPPNM | Key Provisions

As set out by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Amendment to the CPPNM makes it “legally binding to protect nuclear facilities and material in peaceful domestic use, storage, and transport and also provides for expanded cooperation between and among States regarding rapid measures to locate and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material, mitigate any radiological consequences of sabotage, and prevent and combat related offences.”

 Target Signatory State  Target Non-State-Party



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Caribbean States Parties to A/CPPNM

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- *Jamaica*
- *Saint Kitts and Nevis*
- *Saint Lucia*

Caribbean States not State Party to A/CPPNM





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ICSANT | Key Provisions

-  A broader definition (than the Convention on the Protection of Nuclear Material) of materials and facilities covering both military and civilian applications
-  The criminalization of the planning, threat or execution of acts of nuclear terrorism; it obliges states to criminalize these offenses through implementation in national law and to establish penalties according to the seriousness of these crimes
-  Guidelines for extradition and other punitive measures
-  The obligation for States to take all possible measures to prevent and counter the preparations for offenses which take place inside or outside their territory.

 Target Signatory State  Target Non-Signatory State



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The Challenge:

The [Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials \(CPPNM\)](#) was adopted on 26th October 1979 and entered into force on 8th February, 1987. CPPNM provides for certain levels of physical protection during the international transport of nuclear material, in addition to establishing a general framework for cooperation among States in the protection, recovery, and return of stolen nuclear material. CPPNM also lists certain serious offenses involving nuclear material to be prescribed and punished by States Parties, and for which offenders are subject to a system of extradition or submission for prosecution.

In 1996, the UN Secretary-General (UNSG) prepared a report pursuant to UN General Assembly Resolution 50/53 (A/RES/50/53), which analyzed international legal instruments in place relating to international terrorism. The Report concluded that a need existed to elaborate additional international frameworks in spheres not contemplated in existing treaties. One of the initiatives proposed was prevention of the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by terrorists.

In the period immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in the United States of America, the risk of WMD related terrorism, including nuclear terrorism, began to receive more urgent attention on the part of the international community. Nuclear and radiological materials in the illicit market, in parallel, also became a significant point of alarm, in particular in the context of the revelations surrounding the A.Q. Khan nuclear smuggling networks in the 1980s and 1990s.

The ability of Non-State Actors, including terrorists and terrorist organizations, not only to obtain and use Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), but also to gain access to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) materials, continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. In recent years, Non-State Actors have sought out new ways to acquire and use WMD in the commission of terrorist acts. With the ever-increasing growth and expansion of legal and illegal trade channels, the potential for access to such weapons and constitutive materials has, regrettably, only become easier.

The [International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism \(ICSANT\)](#) was adopted on 13th April, 2005. ICSANT criminalizes the possession, use, or threat of use of radioactive devices by Non State Actors, their accomplices, and organizers “with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury” or environmental or property damage. ICSANT also requires States Parties governments either to prosecute terrorist suspects in domestic courts or extradite them to their home countries and also provides a framework for increased exchanges of information and greater cooperation between States in the pursuit of terrorist suspects. ICSANT also urges states to ensure the protection of radioactive materials, “taking into account” recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). ICSANT also classifies as a punishable offense any attacks on nuclear facilities that could risk the release of radioactive material.

However, as the quantity of nuclear material in circulation for civilian use has steadily increased, both CPPNM and ICSANT were considered not to be fully adequate in the protection of nuclear installations or nuclear materials in domestic use, storage, and transport. Pursuant to Article 2, the CPPNM applies to nuclear material used for peaceful purposes while in international nuclear transport. On 8 July 2005, the State Parties to the CPPNM adopted the Amendment to the CPPNM. The amended Convention makes it legally binding for States Parties to protect nuclear facilities and material in peaceful domestic use, storage as well as transport. The Amendment also provides for greater cooperation between and among States regarding rapid measures to locate and recover stolen or smuggled nuclear material, mitigate any radiological consequences of sabotage, and prevent and combat related offences.

CPPNM	AMENDMENT TO CPPNM	ICSANT
Adopted: 26 October 1979	Adopted: 8 July 2005	Adopted: 13 April 2005
Opened for Signature: 3 March 1980	Opened for Signature: N/A	Opened for Signature: 14 September 2005
Entered into Force: 8 February 1987	Entered into Force: 8 May 2016	Entered into Force: 7 July 2007
Number of States Parties: 162	Number of States Parties: 125	Number of States Parties: 117
Number of Signatories: 44	Number of Signatories: N/A	Number of Signatories: 115
Depositary: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Depositary: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	Depositary: UN Secretary-General

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Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material 2022

28 March–1 April 2022, Vienna, Austria

Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM) 2022

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The **Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM)**, planned to take place from **28 March to 1 April 2022**, will mark just over **five years** after entry into force of the Amendment, a major milestone in the development of the international legal framework for nuclear security. The Director General of the IAEA, as depositary, is pleased to convene this important Conference in accordance with Article 16.1 of the CPPNM as amended. Ambassador Benno Laggner of Switzerland and Ambassador Suleiman Dauda Umar of Nigeria have been designated as Co-Presidents for the Conference.

The CPPNM, as strengthened by the Amendment, provides a solid framework for protecting nuclear facilities, as well as nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport, as well as in international transport. It harmonizes approaches to combatting criminal acts involving nuclear material and facilities. It also serves as a basis for international cooperation in locating and recovering stolen or smuggled nuclear material, as well as in the case of sabotage.

The purpose of the Conference is to review the implementation of the CPPNM as amended and its adequacy as concerns the preamble, the whole of the operative part and the annexes in the light of the then prevailing situation.

In preparation for the Conference, the Secretariat, on behalf of the Parties, convened two informal open-ended meetings of legal and technical experts in July and November 2019, as well as two sessions of the Preparatory Committee in December 2020 and February 2021, which undertook conference preparations including with respect to draft Rules of Procedure and a draft annotated agenda.

NGO Participation

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may be represented at the Conference as observers, subject to the approval of the Parties, and participate as determined by the Parties. NGOs should inform the IAEA

"The Conference will provide an opportunity for the Parties to the Amendment and the CPPNM to underline their political commitment to nuclear security. It will also be an occasion to promote further universalization. I hope that we will have a substantive dialogue and exchange of best practices that will lead to more effective implementation."

... Ambassador Benno Laggner, Switzerland's Resident Representative to the IAEA and designated Co-President of the Conference

Related resources

- [Side Event Request Form](#)
- [Conference Poster](#)
- [Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material \(CPPNM\) and its Amendment](#)
- [5 Questions on the CPPNM and its Amendment](#)
- [Nuclear Security Information Portal \(NUSEC\) Portal: CPPNM and A/CPPNM \(Restricted\)](#)

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