



STRENGTHENED SAFEGUARDS: PRESENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

PIERRE GOLDSCHMIDT

International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria

The safeguards system is experiencing what has been seen as a revolution and, in doing so, it is confronting a series of challenges. These can be grouped into three areas.

Drawing and maintaining safeguards conclusions

The process by which the safeguards conclusions are derived is based upon the analysis, evaluation and review of all the information available to the Agency. This process is ongoing, but the State Evaluation Reports are compiled and reviewed periodically. For States with an additional protocol in force, the absence of indicators of the presence of undeclared nuclear material or activities provides the basis for the safeguards conclusion. Future challenges center on States' expectations of, and reactions to, the results of the evaluation and review process.

Designing and implementing integrated safeguards

The conceptual framework of integrated safeguards is being actively pursued. Basic principles have been defined and integrated safeguards approaches have been developed for various types of facilities. Work is also progressing on the design of integrated safeguards approaches for specific States. Complementary access is being successfully implemented, and procedures for the use of unannounced inspections are being developed with the prospect of cost-effectiveness gains.

Costs neutrality vs. quality and credibility

The Department faces serious staff and financial challenges. It has succeeded so far in "doing more" and "doing better" within a zero-real growth budget, but the scope for further significant efficiency gains is exhausted. There is no capacity to absorb new or unexpected tasks. Difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified and experienced staff exacerbate the problems and add to costs. The Director General of the IAEA has referred to the need for new initiatives to bridge the budgetary gap; a possible measure is proposed.

The tasks of meeting the challenges and demands of strengthened safeguards have been added to the tasks of implementing traditional safeguards. New tasks are appearing; a significant recent example is the consequence, for the Department's Security of Material Programme, of the September terrorist attacks in the United States. The gap between what is required and the available resources cannot continue to increase indefinitely.