

Statement of Principles and Terms of Reference

3 November 2023

Basic Understandings

1. All members of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) affirm that:
 - a) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system makes an essential contribution to efforts in ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
 - b) it is in the interest of all members that IAEA safeguards are implemented effectively and efficiently; and
 - c) it is in the interest of all members that each individual State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) in the region is able to meet its safeguards responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

Objectives

2. The objectives of APSN are to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, by:
 - a) supporting the building and sustainability of national nuclear safeguards capability;
 - b) promoting regional cooperation in appropriate nuclear safeguards application and practices;
 - c) facilitating the coordination and provision of nuclear safeguards technical assistance;
 - d) providing a forum for the sharing of appropriate knowledge on nuclear safeguards; and
 - e) developing a network of national nuclear safeguards practitioners in the region.

Activities

3. The objectives of APSN will be achieved through activities including the following, making best use of relevant existing activities conducted by the member organisations and the IAEA:
 - a) holding meetings and other such activities that will provide a forum for safeguards professionals and authorities to interact constructively;
 - b) developing and maintaining a communication system to provide for convenient and rapid interchange of information in a secure communication environment, to facilitate the sharing of safeguards knowledge and best practice;
 - c) coordinating and supporting training on safeguards issues in cooperation with the IAEA, drawing upon the depth of expertise available from regional partners;
 - d) cooperating in making available to professionals of member organisations information on resources and assistance, matching the safeguards needs and resources of states in the region;

- e) providing opportunities for professional exchange programs between member organisations, recognising that such exchanges are a useful tool for professional development;
 - f) facilitating collaboration in research and development, and development of analytical capabilities, in safeguards and related fields and the application of such research, development and analysis;
 - g) providing other technical support and assistance on safeguards issues; and
 - h) undertaking other activities of interest to member organisations.
4. APSN will not include an inspectorate or undertake verification activities.

Membership

- 5. APSN will comprise of members, associates and partners as set out in the paragraphs below. Current members, associates and partners are listed in the Annex to this document, which will be updated from time to time.
- 6. APSN is intended to be a professional network drawing upon the expertise available in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure that safeguards activities in the region are conducted to IAEA standards.
- 7. Membership or associate membership of APSN is open to any government or government-affiliated organisation that is responsible for the application, implementation or development of safeguards in sovereign states in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 8. Eligible organisations of states not listed in the Annex may join APSN by submitting a request to the Chair (pending Member). Acceptance of membership is based on consensus of APSN members existing at the time of application. Membership is confirmed by the applicant notifying the Chair in writing that it accepts the APSN Statement of Principles and Terms of Reference.
- 9. Eligible organisations of states outside the Asia-Pacific region not listed in the Annex may join APSN as an associate member by submitting a request to the Chair (pending Associate). Acceptance is based on consensus of the APSN members existing at the time of application. Associate membership is confirmed by the applicant notifying the Chair in writing that it accepts the Statement of Principles and Terms of Reference.
- 10. APSN considers the IAEA a permanent partner of the Network.
- 11. APSN may also conclude other partnerships with inter-governmental, non-government and other organisations on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. Such partnerships will be concluded in writing and come into effect when accepted by consensus of the members.
- 12. APSN may also invite observers to APSN activities after consultation with members. Observers have no formal status in APSN.

Organisation, Structure including Steering Committee and Working Groups, Chair and Secretariat

13. The Chair of APSN will be an individual nominated by a member organisation and appointed by the members by consensus for a period of two years, which may be extended for a maximum of two terms. The Chair will normally rotate biannually between APSN members.
14. The Chair will be responsible for calling meetings of APSN and will be responsible for arranging any necessary Secretariat function. If necessary, the members may establish additional mechanisms to carry out effectively the objectives of APSN.
15. Members may appoint a Deputy or Vice Chair to support the current Chair.

Steering Committee

16. An APSN Steering Committee will comprise Australia, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea as permanent members and the current Chair (and deputy/vice where relevant) of APSN, if not already a permanent member. The composition of the Steering Committee may be changed by consensus of APSN members. The Steering Committee may invite other members to observe Steering Committee meetings.
17. The Steering Committee has the role of providing advice, guidance and support for consideration by APSN members. The Steering Committee is not an executive committee and will not make decisions on APSN's behalf.
18. The Steering Committee will appoint a Head to be rotated among the permanent members of the Steering Committee for periods of two years, which may be extended. No member will occupy both Head of the Steering Committee and Chair of APSN at the same time.

Working Groups

19. APSN may form working groups (WGs) to facilitate APSN activities. Each WG will report on its activities at APSN meetings. The WGs may initiate projects but will not make decisions on behalf of APSN. The WGs will be reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing relevance and progress.

Events

20. APSN will establish a process for using the APSN name and logo to co-sponsor events.

Funding

21. There will not be any form of regular contribution or membership fee.
22. Unless otherwise arranged, members will fund their own participation in Network activities.

Commencement, Duration and Withdrawal

23. APSN commenced on 1 October 2009. APSN will continue indefinitely unless otherwise decided by the members.
24. A member, associate or partner has the right to withdraw from APSN after notifying the Chair in writing of its wish to withdraw and upon confirmation of the Chair of receipt of the letter.
25. This Statement of Principles and Terms of Reference will be reviewed periodically and may be amended by consensus of members.

ANNEX 1 (as of 3 November 2023)

Members	Australia	Bangladesh	Cambodia
	Canada	Indonesia	Japan
	Republic of Korea	Malaysia	Mongolia
	Myanmar	New Zealand	Philippines
	Singapore	Thailand	United States
	Viet Nam		
Pending Members	Lao PDR	Brunei	
Associates	(none)		
Pending Associates	(none)		
Partners	IAEA	European Safeguards Research and Development Association	
Pending Partners	Institute of Nuclear Materials Management		