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### THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)<sup>1</sup>

The IAEA is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field. It works with its Members States for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

#### HISTORY & PURPOSE

The IAEA was established in 1957 under the President Eisenhower "Atoms for Peace" initiative. It is an affiliate organisation of the United Nations. The objectives of the IAEA's dual mission – to promote and control the Atom – are defined in the IAEA Statute:

"The Agency shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control is not used in such a way as to further any military purpose."

#### THE IAEA & SAFEGUARDS

The IAEA is the world's nuclear inspectorate, carrying out safeguards verification activities across the world. Inspectors work to verify that safeguarded nuclear material and activities are not used for weapons purposes.

The IAEA conducts an evaluation of the consistency of a State's declared nuclear programme against the results of the Agency's verification activities under the relevant Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, and with all other safeguards-relevant information available to the Agency.

#### THE IAEA & THE UK

The Non-Proliferation Treaty does not require the UK, as a nuclear weapons State, to agree safeguards agreements with the IAEA. However the UK has agreed a '**Voluntary Offer Agreement**' (VOA) and '**Additional Protocol**' (AP) with the IAEA. These agreements recognise that the UK has nuclear activities outside the scope of IAEA safeguards, and they allow for the UK to remove facilities and/or withdraw material from the scope of the agreement for reasons of national security.

Under the terms of the UK's VOA the UK provides the IAEA with a list of facilities from which the Agency can 'designate' facilities for verification. The UK facilities currently designated and inspected by the IAEA (jointly with Euratom) include parts of the Sellafield facility containing separated plutonium product from the reprocessing of irradiated fuel, and the gas centrifuge enrichment facility at Capenhurst.

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<sup>1</sup> This fact sheet contains content sourced from <http://www.iaea.org>.