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## **Achieved progress and faced challenges in implementation of the safeguards obligations in the Republic of Azerbaijan.**

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1992. Agreement and the Protocol thereto (Small Quantities Protocol) for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concluded in May 31 of 1999. May 8, 2014 the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed decree on establishment of the "National Centre for Nuclear Research" Closed Joint Stock Company under the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the use of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. Taking into account of this decision provisions related to the equipment of the Centre with nuclear research reactor and other essential facilities that meet to the modern requirements, as well as referred to the Small Quantities Protocol conditions and in accordance with IAEA Board of Governors decision regarding relevant protocols, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan officially proposed to rescind aforementioned Protocol. The rescission agreed upon in the Exchange of Letters entered into force on 15 July 2015, the date of the IAEA's reply to the Republic of Azerbaijan confirming the rescission. Since that date, all obligations specified in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have been extended to the Republic of Azerbaijan. The paper will describe the progress achieved and the existing difficulties associated with the full implementation of the relevant safeguards obligations.

### **Topics**

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**Primary author:** Mr PASHAYEV, Ramin (Head of Department on Special permission and State registry of the State Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Activity Regulations (Regulatory Authority) of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

**Presenter:** Mr PASHAYEV, Ramin (Head of Department on Special permission and State registry of the State Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Activity Regulations (Regulatory Authority) of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

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