

Challenges in establishing and maintaining a national nuclear forensics support framework and importance of international cooperation

The field of nuclear forensics is recognized as an indispensable tool in the management of nuclear security events, in particular those resulting from the trafficking of nuclear materials and nuclear materials beyond regulatory control. During this decade, the agency, in cooperation with certain specialized organizations and other partners, has developed various nuclear forensics tools, including procedures and guidelines, equipment. Thus, this work and the promotion of nuclear forensics through the sharing of knowledge and experience constitute an important part of the analysis, traceability and prevention of nuclear and radiological emergencies.

Thus, nuclear forensics involves many actors including frontline responders, nuclear scientists, doctors, regulators and law enforcement and in this regard, coordination between these entities varies from country to country. Therefore, the creation and operation of the nuclear forensics framework is country-specific and its sustainability depends on the coordination and support of decision-making systems.

In this regard, a wider and more extensive involvement of the IAEA, in raising awareness and initiating the creation of nuclear forensics support centers through appropriate tools, such as TC-IAEA projects, at the levels national, regional or interregional and by facilitating international cooperation in the field. A holistic approach with the guidance, assistance and continued support of the IAEA are key elements in stimulating and expanding support for nuclear forensic analysis in most Member States.

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