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ANALYSIS THE APPLICABILITY OF THE NUCLEAR LIABILITY CONVENTIONS TO SMALL MODULAR REACTORS

Since global demand for energy and the security of energy supply concerns, interest in SMRs is increasing day by day and there are many new SMR designs. In this context, it is obvious that the interest in nuclear energy and SMRs is at a high level in future planning for either Earth, Moon and Mars. SMRs display an enhanced safety performance through inherent and passive safety features, offer better upfront capital cost affordability and offer options for remote regions with less developed infrastructures. Additionally, the increasing interest to the SMRs create many challenges beside advantages. SMRs and other new technologies were not envisaged when international nuclear conventions were drafted. Therefore, such conventions would need to be reviewed in the light of these new technologies and reactor types. The international nuclear legal framework does not address SMRs, but does not intentionally exclude from its scope. In order to address these issues, IAEA has published a document in 2023, about the applicability of existing safety standards to SMRs. My paper will seek answers to a similar question; whether the existing nuclear liability conventions can be applied to SMRs or not; the current situation and future of the SMRs.

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YES

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