



# **Technical Meeting of the Underground Research Facilities Network for Geological Disposal on Global Progress in Geological Disposal Programmes**

**Virtual Event**

**3–6 February 2026**

**Ref. No.: EVT2503812**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

The IAEA Underground Research Facility (URF) Network provides an international platform for Member State to assess and share best practices in developing, evaluating and implementing geological disposal solutions for intermediate level waste, high level waste and spent nuclear fuel. The Network highlights the essential role of URFs in advancing the scientific and engineering basis for geological disposal programmes.

To fulfil its objectives, the URF Network relies on the active involvement of the geological disposal technical community and, significantly, on resource contributions from all those members that own or manage URFs and other research facilities and that have agreed to host training and demonstration activities.

The 2026 virtual Technical Meeting of the URF Network will focus on the global progress in geological disposal programmes including updates in relation to URF facilities. This update will take place on a fully virtual platform. At this meeting, Member States are asked to provide status updates on their URF and geological disposal programmes.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the event is to share updates on the development, evaluation and implementation of geological disposal solutions for high level waste and spent nuclear fuel. The event will also focus on sharing current research results from operating underground research facilities that support the development and implementation of disposal programmes.

## **Target Audience**

Members of the URF Network are invited to attend the meeting. The URF Network is open and accessible to representatives working in the area of geological disposal from all Member States.

In general, the meeting is targeted to representatives of organizations with specific responsibilities related to establishing, developing, providing the scientific and technical basis for, and implementing geological disposal projects for radioactive waste.

## **Working Language(s)**

The working language of the event will be English with no interpretation provided. All communications and papers must be submitted in this language.

## **Expected Outputs**

Annualized Member State updates on progress in their disposal programmes for geological repository programmes.

Annualized Member State updates on progress in their R&D programmes planned or implemented in a URF.

List of action items of further interest to Network members.

## **Structure**

This meeting is fully virtual and will commence on Tuesday, 3 February 2026 and will conclude on Friday 6 February 2026.

## Topics

The scope of this meeting is on status updates for geological repository programmes and URF experiments worldwide. Member State representatives are requested to prepare a short country update specific to each Member State's geological repository programme and URF(s) (if applicable) in MS PowerPoint. The updates should be uploaded to the URF website at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

## Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **20 January 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
  - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
  - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
  - Complete or update their personal details under 'Complete Profile' and upload the relevant supporting documents;
  - Search for the relevant event under the 'My Eligible Events' tab;
  - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled 'Designating Authority' (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org));
  - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
  - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
  - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to [InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org).

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use

the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

## **Additional Information**

The meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams and will be forwarded as a calendar invite. If you have any barriers to participate with this program, please kindly reach out to us.

## IAEA Contacts

### Scientific Secretary:

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

## Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

<https://www.iaea.org/events/evt2503812>