



Technical Meeting on Circular Economy Principles in Uranium Production

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

25 - 28 August 2026

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Uranium is the primary fuel used in nuclear reactors to generate electricity. The uranium production cycle encompasses several phases, including exploration, mining, ore processing, and the eventual decommissioning and closure of production sites.

Driven by national clean energy policies and commitments to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, nuclear power is expected to expand significantly in the coming decades. To meet the resulting demand for nuclear fuel, uranium production will need to increase substantially. Projections indicate that additional production capacity—on the order of two to three times current levels—will be required by mid-century to avoid supply shortfalls. Furthermore, cumulative uranium demand could exceed currently identified conventional resources by the end of the 21st century. This underscores the need to improve resource efficiency and to maximise the value derived from uranium production systems.

The circular economy promotes production systems in which markets, regulations, and industrial practices are optimised to minimise waste and preserve natural resources. In the context of uranium production, circular economy approaches seek to maximise the value derived from extracted materials through responsible production, intelligent design, and consideration of recycling, reuse, and disposal pathways.

As uranium demand grows and resource constraints become more pronounced toward the end of the century, the implementation of circular economy principles in uranium mining and processing will become increasingly important for maintaining supply security while meeting environmental, social, and regulatory expectations. The Technical Meeting on Circular Economy Principles in Uranium Production aims to support the development of a more resource-efficient, resilient, and sustainable uranium production systems.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide a forum for Member States to share expert knowledge and experience related to the application of circular economy principles in uranium production.

Target Audience

The Technical Meeting is intended to bring together expert practitioners, representing national authorities, governments and organizations involved in the uranium production cycle — including exploration, mining, processing, and decommissioning. In addition, the meeting will engage with specialists from related fields such as circular economy and resource efficiency, experts and practitioners working with other mining and extractive commodities (beyond uranium), as well as professionals from the broader nuclear sector whose work intersects with circular economy principles.

Expected Outputs

Participants will be invited to suggest ideas to make the application of circular economy principles within the uranium production cycle more visible.

The IAEA aims to collect professional inputs and case studies. A meeting report will be prepared to summarise the main findings of this Technical Meeting. The meeting report and presentations will be shared with participants and posted on the [IAEA Connect UPC-Net site](#).

Topics

The meeting will explore current and emerging trends in circularity as they relate to regulation and policy, technology development and research, market drivers and other affecting the implementation of circular economy principles in uranium production. The following topics will be included in the programme:

Resource efficiency and value retention

- Maximising uranium recovery and co-recoverable materials
- Extending the productive value of materials, water, and infrastructure

Lifecycle integration

- Designing mining, processing, and closure phases as an integrated system
- Integrating closure and legacy considerations from the outset

Use of secondary and legacy resources

- Tailings, mine waste, low-grade ores, and historical sites

Minimisation of waste and losses

- Physical materials, water, energy, and land disturbance
- Emissions and long-term environmental liabilities

Resilience and adaptability

- Responding to any resource scarcity, regulatory change, and societal expectations

The meeting will comprise a series of sessions to discuss and share strategies, experiences, and practices. Contributions may include policy and regulatory perspectives, economic and market analyses,

decision-support tools and modelling approaches, and lessons learned (including opportunities, challenges and constraints).

Comparative insights from other resource or extractive industries, institutions, and technology providers that can provide relevant insights and practical applications on circular economy approaches will be considered.

Papers and Presentation

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed in above Topics Section.

Participants who wish to give presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than 3 pages (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 500 words. It should be sent electronically to the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **03 July 2026**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **10 July 2026**.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **10 July 2026**.

Working Language(s)

English.

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 **10 July 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);

- 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.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **10 July 2026**.

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.

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.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)** which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **10 July 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:
<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event

on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

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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.