

What is the A/CPPNM?

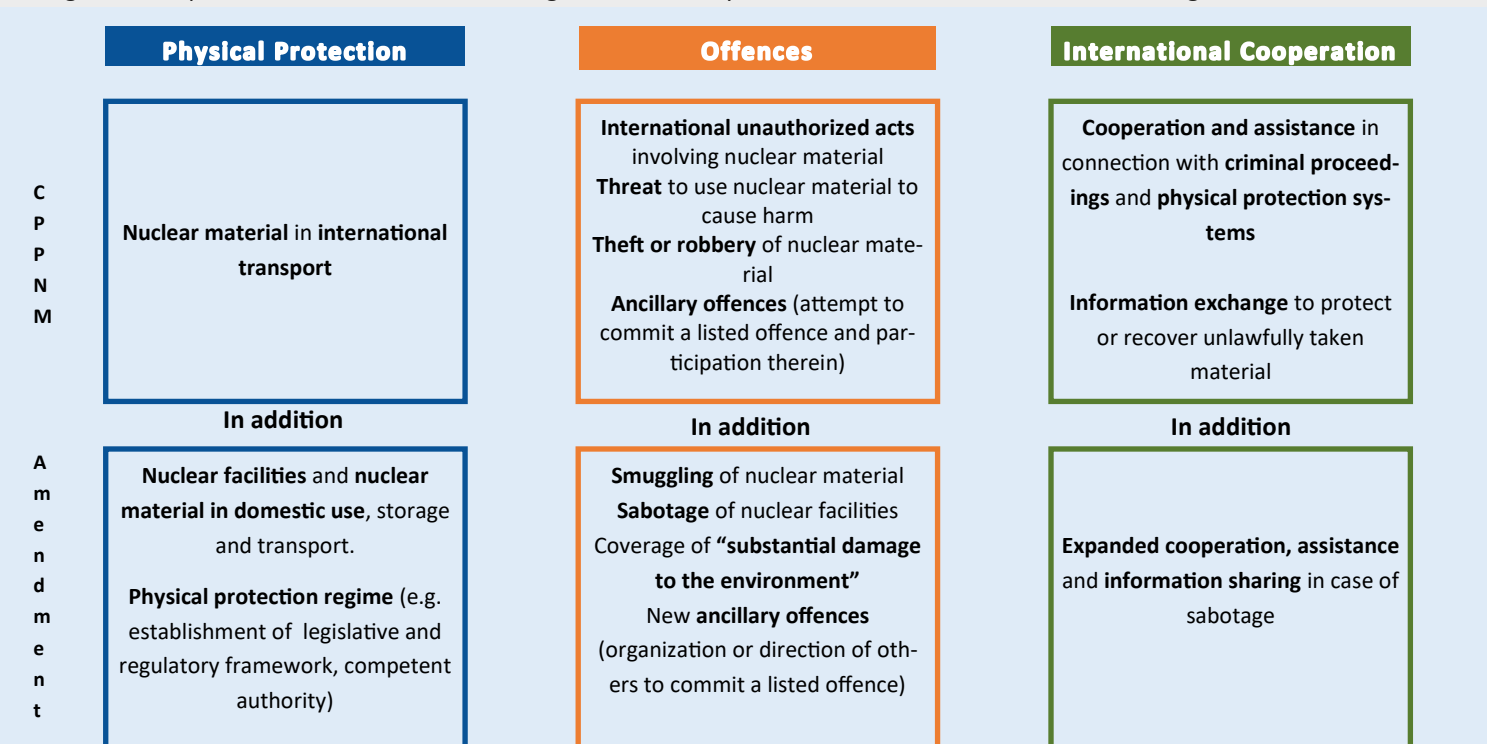
The main international legal instruments in the area of nuclear security adopted under the IAEA’s auspices are the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its 2005 Amendment. The CPPNM establishes legal obligations for Parties on the physical protection of nuclear materials used for peaceful purposes during international transport; the criminalization of certain offences involving nuclear material; and international cooperation, for example, in the case of theft, robbery or any other unlawful taking of nuclear material or credible threat thereof. The Amendment strengthens the Convention by extending the scope of the original treaty to cover physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material used for peaceful purposes in domestic use, storage and transport. For more details see the graphic below.

A/CPPNM Contribution to Peaceful Uses

Peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology has the potential to make a significant contribution to the achievement of sustainable development goals. More countries are looking to nuclear power as sustainable and reliable low-carbon energy sources, and advances in nuclear reactor technology promises to make nuclear power more accessible to a greater number of countries. Nuclear security is integral to peaceful uses, to protect nuclear and other radioactive material from malicious use. The sabotage of a nuclear facility or the theft and misuse of nuclear material could result in significant radioactive release that would have catastrophic consequences and shake public confidence in all things nuclear. The universalization of the Convention as amended and its effective implementation are essential to strengthening the global framework for the protection of nuclear material in civilian use.

Amendment Implementation & Review Conference

The Review Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in 2022 is considered one of the most important global nuclear security events held by the IAEA since the 2020 International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS). It provides an opportunity to highlight the relevance of various instruments that can assist Parties in implementing the Convention as amended. The Conference will review the implementation of the CPPNM as amended and its adequacy as concerns the preamble, the whole of the operative part and the annexes in the light of the then prevailing situation. The Conference gives an additional momentum to universalization. This international forum advances domestic and regional mechanisms for legal and cooperative instruments in enhancing nuclear security and, as such, should be convened on a regular basis.



The Amendment strengthens the CPPNM by extending the scope of the original treaty to cover physical protection of nuclear facilities and nuclear material used for peaceful purposes in domestic use, storage and transport. *Image: IAEA.*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), upon request, provides legislative and technical assistance to support adherence to and effective implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment. This assistance includes:

- Development and implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs);
- Peer reviews and advisory services, such as the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) and International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ);
- Legislative assistance in drafting and reviewing legislation related to implementation;
- Establishing and maintaining guidance on all aspects of nuclear security through the Nuclear Security Series documents;
- International seminars, regional, and national workshops.

Lessons learned, Good practices & Takeaways

In a recent VCDNP survey, workshop and report on the accession to and impact of the Amendment to the CPPNM on States Parties, Parties offered valuable lessons for implementation of the Amendment:

- Ratification of the Amendment raised awareness among national authorities, operators, and society of the importance of the secure use of nuclear technologies and their benefits;
- Raising awareness of the importance of nuclear security at the junior or mid-levels of relevant ministries, especially for officials in small States, where such officials may manage several portfolios;
- Establishing effective response and domestic/international coordination mechanisms is crucial;
- Bringing national laws in line with the Amendment provisions can be a lengthier process than expected;
- Majority of Amendment requirements were satisfied as a result of prior ratification of other comparable international treaties;
- Full implementation of the amended Convention cannot be achieved without State's adherence to all other treaties and establishing cooperative response mechanisms to nuclear security incidences;

It was also noted that a regular review conference and events on its margin, such as cooperative regional exercises or a one off training, will effectively support implementation and universalization of the Amendment.



Unit 1-2 of Korea Shin-Kori Nuclear Power Plant. *Image: IAEA.*

For further reading

- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment, IAEA, <https://www.iaea.org/publications/documents/conventions/convention-physical-protection-nuclear-material-and-its-amendment>
- Accession to and Impact of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on States Parties, Artem Lazarev and Marianne Nari Fisher, VCDNP Report, 2022 <https://vcdnp.org/cppnm-a-report/>
- Towards a Successful A/CPPNM Review Conference, VCDNP panel discussion, 2022, <https://vcdnp.org/acppnm-revcon-prospects/>