

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Nuclear energy

**OECD Convention on Third Party Liability in the
Field of Nuclear Energy (Paris 1960)**

**Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
(Vienna 1963)**

**Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the
Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention
(Vienna) 1988**

Protocol 1997 to the Vienna Convention

Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (Vienna 1963)

Aim: to establish a regime of minimum standards for liability and compensation in the event of a nuclear accident

Obligations:

- operator is liable for nuclear damage
- absolute liability of the operator
- exemptions (act of war, act of God)
- the time period to bring the action is limited to 10 years from the date of the nuclear incident
- liability limitations – 5 millions of USD
- financial security or insurance of the operator

Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Vienna 1986)

- Aim:**
- to facilitate prompt assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency
 - to remove administrative barriers which frequently limit the effectiveness of international assistance in case of emergency situations

Obligations:

- notification of the state and IAEA
- information exchange and assistance coordination
- reimbursement of costs

Convention on Early Notification of Nuclear Accidents (Vienna 1986)

Aim: - to minimize consequences of a nuclear accident

Obligations:

- to notify immediately IAEA and states that are or might be affected by the consequences of the accident

Convention on Nuclear Safety (Vienna 1994)

Objectives:

- to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide,
- to establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards
- to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and to mitigate such consequences should they occur

Obligations:

- to establish a regulatory mechanism to govern the safety of nuclear installations

Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Vienna 1997)

Objective:

- to achieve and maintain a high level of safety worldwide in spent fuel and radioactive waste management
- to ensure that during all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management there are effective defences against potential hazards
- to protect against harmful effects of ionising radiation
- to prevent accidents

Obligations:

- general requirements,
- requirements for siting, design and construction of facilities,
- safety assessment,
- operation, disposal of spent fuel and institutional measures after closure.