

Summaries of the multilateral treaties deposited with other depositaries

Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Vienna, 3 March 1980 ()**

The Physical Protection Convention has a twofold objective: it establishes levels of physical protection required to be applied to nuclear material used for peaceful purposes while in international nuclear transport and it also provides for measures against unlawful acts with respect to such material while in international nuclear transport as well as in domestic use, storage and transport.

Although the levels of physical protection prescribed in the Convention are required to be applied only to nuclear material used for peaceful purposes while international nuclear transport, other provisions of the Convention (e.g., the requirements that relate to making specified acts punishable offences under national law, to establishing jurisdiction over those offences and to prosecuting or extraditing alleged offenders) apply also to nuclear material used for peaceful purposes while in domestic use, storage and transport. Accordingly, States Parties to the Convention are obliged to make punishable under their national law the intentional commission of offences with respect to nuclear material as listed in its Article 7, in particular, intentional commission of: acts without lawful authority dealing with nuclear material causing or likely to cause death or serious injury or damage to any person or property; theft or robbery of nuclear material; embezzlement or fraudulent obtaining of nuclear material; demands for nuclear material by any form of intimidation; threats to use nuclear material to cause death or serious injury or damage to any person or property; or threats to steal nuclear material to compel a person, international organization or State to do or refrain from doing any act. The Convention also contains specific rules on jurisdiction and extradition.

(**) Summary courtesy of IAEA