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# news release

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## CANADA SIGNS NUCLEAR SAFETY CONVENTION

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Canada has signed the Nuclear Safety Convention. Dr. Agnes Bishop, President of the Atomic Energy Control Board, signed the Convention on behalf of Canada during the annual General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna today.

"I am proud to say that Canada was the first country to sign the Convention. I call on all states to sign this document soon and to bring it into force. The Nuclear Safety Convention will provide an important international forum to promote the safety and effective regulation of nuclear facilities," Mr. Ouellet said.

Sponsored by the IAEA, the Convention reflects fundamental safety principles. Its objective is to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide through both the enhancement of national measures and international co-operation. An important feature is the peer review process which will result in greater international collaboration and transparency in nuclear safety.

Canada has been actively involved in the elaboration of this Convention since its inception in late 1991 and, from May 1992 to February 1993, chaired the Group of Experts that developed it.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
(613) 995-1874