

## DSA and Uzbekistan Resume Cooperation with a New Project to Develop Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulations for the Country's Nuclear Power Program



DSA and Uzbek counterparts during a site visit to the proposed nuclear power plant site in the Forish district, Jizzakh region, Uzbekistan.

The Norwegian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (DSA) participated in bilateral meetings in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 21 to 23 April 2026 to launch a new three-year cooperation project aimed at supporting the development of the country's regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety.

The project is financed under Norway's Nuclear Action Plan and is implemented in cooperation with the Committee for Industrial, Radiation and Nuclear Safety (CIRNS) and its technical support organization, the Scientific and Technical Center for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (STCRNS). The project will run until 2028 and focuses on the development of fundamental safety requirements for nuclear power plants and regulatory requirements for radiation protection at nuclear facilities.

The meetings brought together representatives of DSA (Tamara Zhunussova and Jonas Nikolaisen), CIRNS, STCRNS, UZATOM, and Norway's Ambassador to Central Asia, Helene Sand Andresen. The kick-off meeting established a common understanding of the project's objectives, priorities and responsibilities, laying the foundation for future cooperation.

Uzbekistan is embarking on an ambitious nuclear power program and is facing a significant need to establish a comprehensive and internationally aligned regulatory framework. During the meetings, Uzbek counterparts presented recent developments in the country's legislative and institutional framework and highlighted the need for support in developing standards and regulations, as well as clarifying the respective

roles of the regulatory authority and technical support organizations.

DSA shared Norwegian experience in regulatory development, regulatory oversight and international cooperation. In addition, practical approaches for preparing regulatory documents were discussed, including the use of IAEA Safety Standards, quality assurance arrangements and methodologies for gap analysis and the development of national requirements.



Figure 1. Participants of the kick-off meeting for the Norway-funded project on the development of nuclear and radiation safety regulations, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, April 2026.

Representatives from UZATOM presented the country's plans for the development of nuclear power, including both conventional reactors and small modular reactors. The first units are expected to become operational from 2029 onwards.

On 21 April, the DSA delegation visited the proposed nuclear power plant site in the Forish district of the Jizzakh region, where site development activities have commenced. The visit provided first-hand insight into the scale and complexity of the program and underscored the importance of ensuring that the development of nuclear infrastructure is accompanied by a strong and effective regulatory framework.

As an IAEA Member State, Uzbekistan has committed itself to implementing internationally recognized safety standards. While reactor technologies are supplied by the vendor, the responsibility for establishing and enforcing safety requirements rests with the national regulatory authority. The development of a robust, coherent

and independent regulatory framework based on IAEA Safety Standards is therefore essential to ensure the protection of workers, the public and the environment throughout the lifetime of nuclear installations.



Figure 2. Discussions with Uzbek counterparts during the site visit to the proposed nuclear power plant site in the Forish district, Jizzakh region, Uzbekistan.

The Norwegian-funded project will contribute to this effort by supporting the development of national regulations and strengthening institutional capacity in accordance with international best practices. DSA considers the project to be a timely and targeted contribution to ensuring the safe and secure development of nuclear energy in Uzbekistan.

The launch of the project also marks the resumption of bilateral cooperation between Norway and Uzbekistan in the field of nuclear and radiation safety. Through this collaboration, DSA continues its long-standing commitment to promoting nuclear safety and supporting the implementation of international safety standards in Central Asia.