Problem Statement:

Radioactive material shipments are vital to the development and advancement of technologies that benefit the global community in areas such as medicine, agriculture, hydrology, geology, industry, research and the environment. Transport in general, and of radioactive materials in particular, is truly a global enterprise, involving all regions of the world. Problems with transport in one region of the world can directly impact another region on the other side of the globe, making this a truly inter-regional challenge. A number of factors make it challenging to ship radioactive material and, as a result, some carriers and ports have adopted a non-acceptance policy for radioactive material shipments. As a consequence of these challenges, there are regions of the world that are, due to denials of shipment, cut off from essential radioactive materials, such as life-saving radiopharmaceuticals.

In addition, following the events at Fukushima there has been a realization of the need for improved international cooperation between UN groups and Transnational Organizations in the transport sector. The disposition of massive quantities of contaminated debris and the eventual movement of severely damaged spent nuclear fuel could present significant challenges to national, regional, and global transport regimes.

In light of these challenges, the call for enhanced cooperation between the IAEA, UN groups, and Transnational Organizations in the transport sector was raised at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011, and further discussed at the IAEA Transport Conference in October 2011. There is a strong need for the IAEA to bring together, and work collaboratively with, the different UN groups (ICAO, IMO, UNECE, WHO, UNODC) and Transnational Organizations (ACI - Airport Council International-, GEA - Global Express Association-, IAPH - International Association of Ports and Harbours-, IATA - International Air Transport Association-, ICHCA - International Cargo Handlers and
Carriers Association-, ICS -International Chamber of Shipping-, IFALPA -International Federation of Airline Pilot Associations-, ISC -Former International Steering Committee, WNTI -World Nuclear Transport Institute, WNA -World Nuclear Association, and WCO -World Customs Organization-) involved in the transport sector to build effective partnerships, joining efforts to create synergies aimed at improving the current transport regime for radioactive materials.

**Project Description:**

This Interregional TC Project is intended to establish and support a harmonized international framework to sustain the safe transport of radioactive materials according to and consistent with the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material (SSR-6). It will also contribute, to the extent possible, to ensuring consistency between the latest revisions of the UN regulations and guidance for the different transport modes and the IAEA Transport Regulations.

The safe transport of radioactive material needs a harmonized and sustainable international framework. The regulations in SSR-6 have been developed to provide such a framework. These regulations apply to the transport of radioactive material by all modes (land, water, and air) including transport that is incidental to the use of the radioactive material. Several IAEA Member States are in need of improvement to their regulatory frameworks for transport of radioactive materials, which could include support to implement the 2012 edition of SSR-6.

For over a decade, an ad-hoc inter-agency Committee involving ICAO, IMO, and UNECE, facilitated by IAEA, has focused primarily on the harmonisation of regulations for transport of radioactive materials. On occasion, additional Transnational Organizations such as IATA, WNTI, ICHCA, and IFALPA have attended Committee meetings to provide input on specific topics. At the International Steering Committee (ISC) for Denial of Shipment (DOS) in 2012, the concept of forming a new UN inter-agency committee and expanding the scope of the inter-agency Committee to cover cooperation in all areas of transport safety, including DOS, was proposed and accepted by the ISC.

The reason for expanding the Committee is that a new structure for managing DOS issues will be required from 2013 onwards, as the charter for the ISC expires in 2013; however, there is currently
no scope for establishing a new UN committee to address transport issues in that time frame. As a result, there is a need for an interim forum to discuss, develop, and propose solutions to broader transport issues affecting IAEA Member States, utilizing the network established and progress made by the IAEA ad-hoc inter-agency committee. Therefore, the IAEA is proposing to continue arrangements for collaboration through the ad-hoc inter-agency committee and expand that committee’s activities to include Transnational Organizations and Member States under this Inter-Regional Technical Cooperation (TC) Project.

Member States will directly benefit from the efforts of the inter-agency Committee as experts in transport discuss solutions to specific challenges that face them, as well as the global transport community. Solutions to the most pressing transport problems can be proposed, discussed, refined and eventually acted upon. Representatives of Member States who participate in the discussions of this Committee bring their particular challenges in the area of transport of radioactive materials to the table, and stand to gain the most from the solutions proposed. They will then have the opportunity to work with the Regional Coordinators in order to implement these proposed solutions, as appropriate. In addition, existing regional TC projects addressing transport issues can be collaboratively engaged to further the overall goal of strengthening the global transport regime.

The success that the ad-hoc Committee has seen to date has, in large part, been due to extra-budgetary funding An Interregional TC Project offering support for the inter-agency Committee would enable the work to be put on a firmer fiscal basis, supporting full participation by the involved UN agencies and providing for participation by the foremost world experts in transport, and improving the chances of success, for the direct benefit of all the participating UN agencies and Member States.

Overall, this TC Project will contribute to improving the current regime for the safe and more reliable transport of radioactive materials throughout the globe, thus contributing to the development of agricultural, hydrological, geological, medical, industrial, research and environmental activities in Member States that have need of radioactive materials. While this TC Project has specific tasks and
goals, there is flexibility to tackle problems that may arise in specific regions of the world throughout the course of the project.

**Planned Activities:**

1. Supporting the assessment and documentation of MSs regulatory programmes for transport.
2. Supporting the Strengthening of MSs regulatory programmes for transport.
3. Supporting the adoption and integration of SSR-6 within the larger UN-structure for dangerous good transport.
4. Supporting the adoption and integration of SSR-6 in participating Member States.
5. Analysing and harmonizing the implementation of SSR-6 across the global transport regime.
6. Assessing the strength of the national regulatory frameworks.
7. Supporting national regulatory bodies in implementing given recommendations.
8. Reviewing the progress done in implementing recommendations.
9. Reviewing training materials of external organizations on transport of radioactive materials.
10. Developing modules on radioactive material transport to be inserted into external organization’s training packages.
11. Instructing training personnel in efficiently developing developed training modules on transport of radioactive materials.
12. Coordinating and leveraging of training and assistance programmes of the multiple UN agencies and Transnational Organizations to provide more efficient and focused support to MSs.
13. Compiling and distributing contact information for experts.

**Design elements:**

Objective:

The overall objective to which this project will contribute is an improvement in the global transport network to support the safe and reliable transport of radioactive materials throughout the world, thus contributing to the development of agricultural, hydrological, geological, medical, industrial, research and environmental activities that have need of radioactive materials.
Outcomes:

- A harmonized international framework to sustain the safe transport of radioactive materials is established and supported according to IAEA Transport Regulations (SSR-6).

- Regional cooperation mechanisms aimed to facilitate a harmonized approach to the safe transport of radioactive materials and collaboration in areas of common interest for the reduction in denials and delays of shipments are established.

- Improved coordination and collaboration between the multiple UN agencies and Transnational Organizations involved in radioactive material transport.

Specific outputs are:

1. The implementation of the IAEA Transport Regulations (SSR-6) is strengthened.

2. Practical aspects regarding the Member States’ implementation of the IAEA Transport Regulations (SSR-6), as well as the UN incorporation and use of SSR-6, are analysed and harmonized.

3. The regulatory framework on transport of radioactive materials of participating Member States is improved.

4. Training modules on transport of radioactive materials provided within the current training framework on transport and by the different training providers are coordinated and upgraded in order to include harmonized training material in accordance with the transport regulations in SSR-6.

5. A cross-sectorial and multi-disciplinary network of professionals on transport of radioactive materials is established.

Target countries:

Initial target Member States for this interregional project are:

**TC Africa region (TCAF):** Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and Egypt.

**TC Asia and the Pacific region (TCAP):** Iran, Iraq, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and China.

**TC Europe region (TCEU):** Turkey, Kazakhstan.

**TC Latin American region (TCLA):** Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Panama, and Peru.

Potential Partner Member States for this Project include: Norway, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Japan, United Kingdom, Spain, United States, and Canada.
The participation of additional interested Member States should be assessed based on the relevance of the project objectives and activities.

**Estimated Budget per year (in Euros):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget breakdown, per year</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total TCF</td>
<td>€269,000</td>
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<td>Total EB</td>
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<td><strong>Total (TCF+EBT)</strong> (Does not include MSs expected contributions)</td>
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<td>€239,500</td>
<td>€200,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

IAEA budget is a preliminary estimate subject to approval following the due process. Extra-budgetary contributions aimed to support the inputs planned under each planned activity will be pursued.

Cuba has kindly offered to take the role of Designated Team Member -DTM- for this interregional project.