

Right Viewpoint for Integrated Safeguards

Min-Su Kim, Seong Youn Jo, Min Soo Kim, Jae San Kim, Jeong Hoon Lee, Sang Cheol Hyung
*Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control, 103-6 Munji-dong, Yuesong-gu, Daejeon, 305-732
kms@kinac.re.kr*

1. Introduction

After the discovery of clandestine nuclear weapons program, Model Additional Protocol was approved in 1997 as a result of efforts to strengthen the IAEA safeguards system. Based on this strengthened safeguards system, the IAEA has developed new measures that improve efficiency of verification while maintaining effectiveness due to the limited resources. This is called the integrated safeguards and its purpose is to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency within available resources. Presently, the IAEA is going to apply the integrated safeguards to the ROK after statement on broader conclusion of the ROK on June that all nuclear activities of the ROK remain under peaceful activities.

This paper addresses the meanings and effects of the integrated safeguards through establishing a right standpoint to fully understand the integrated safeguards.

2. Body

Occasionally, nuclear material users of the state where safeguards is being applied misunderstand and raise question on necessity of safeguards thinking of that they aren't making any nuclear weapons and even don't have any intention to diverse nuclear materials. However, these kinds of thought could be caused by not seeing the safeguards from state level and lack of understanding on its purpose and background. In international society, a proposition "trust but verify" is actually exist and it is natural to verify compliance of agreement. The IAEA safeguards, a typical example of this proposition, is an elaborate technical measure to fulfilling its obligation. The safeguard applies internationally authorized technical and legal measures to the state based on the political agreement of the state. Of particular important in this regards is that primary purpose of the safeguards is to verify nuclear activities of the state and this verification is implemented on the basis of international agreement and legal authority.

2.1 Perspective of Safeguards

Above all, it is necessary to figure out the nature of safeguards in order to see the meanings and effects of safeguards from the right standpoint. The safeguards has non-economical, political, diplomatic and technical natures.

First, safeguards has non-economical nature that does not induce the financial productivity but only consumes resource of the IAEA and state. Second, it has political

nature that has the political objects for enhancing the transparency of nuclear activities of the state and giving reliability to peripheral states. It also has diplomatic and technical nature in term of being applied under international agreement and using authorized technical measures.

In the light of these natures, inherent meaning and effect of safeguards can be truly understood only when the safeguards is seen and understood from the state or international point of view.

2.2 The Point at Issue

So far, safeguards has been seen from the point of view of interests in our country. So influences on facility operator and economical advantage have been considered importantly when new safeguards measures are applied. The IAEA and state are also continually making efforts to implement the safeguards efficiently and reduce the burden of facility operator. But these kind efforts are being made only to improve the way of how safeguards is implemented. It can't be primary object itself. Namely, economical aspect should be considered only when its primary object is satisfied. Besides, not recognizing indirect effects of safeguards and negative situation being faced in case of breach of agreement are one of factors that make safeguards culture not to become established in our country.

To resolve these problems and understand its meaning, it is necessary to consider safeguards from the previously mention point of view.

2.3 Meanings and Effects of the Integrated Safeguards

Application of the integrated safeguards has significant meanings in the state level. Most importantly, nuclear transparency of the state can be officially approved by the IAEA through broader conclusion so that solid foundation for expansion of peaceful nuclear activity can be created. Moreover, the integrated safeguards can bring various positive effects and possibility of development such as enhancement of cooperation with SSAC, increased role of state, flexibility of evaluation and elevation in position of state among international society as well as quantitative effects such as reduction of IAEA inspection efforts.

3. Conclusions

When considering effects of the integrated safeguards, most obvious is that safeguards is being implemented as a part of obligation of international agreement on

nonproliferation treaty. Implementation of international promise and obligation is performed based on agreement and consensus that something that state can achieve by fulfilling the promise is more valuable than any other economical, political and social costs. It is obvious that safeguards is not an optional issue judged by national advantage and if it is seen from those point of view, there is a high possibility that unnecessary misunderstanding and disadvantage from international society could be arose.

In conclusion, safeguards should be seen and understood from the state or international viewpoint recognizing its background and origin rather than facility level viewpoint.