



STEERING GROUP ACTION PLAN

An Action Plan for the Safe, Secure Global Use of Nuclear Energy

Revised Action Plan Adopted September 28, 2011

1. Background

On June 16-17, 2010, in Accra, Ghana, the Partner countries of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership formally agreed to transform the partnership into the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) and adopt a new Statement of Mission (See Appendix 1), endorsement of which is the sole action required of invited states to become IFNEC Participants. The transformation from GNEP was agreed by the Partners in order to provide a broader scope with wider participation to explore mutually beneficial approaches to ensure the expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes proceeds in a manner that is efficient, safe, secure, and supports non-proliferation and safeguards.

The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation consists of 31 Participant countries, 30 Observer countries and three intergovernmental Observers (Appendix 5).

2. Objective

The primary objective of the Steering Group is to effectively facilitate cooperation among the International Framework Participants to help ensure that the expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes proceeds in a manner that is efficient, safe, secure, and supports non-proliferation and safeguards.

3. International Framework Operational Procedures

International Framework operating procedures have been developed in order to clearly describe the process for key actions, including the process for inviting new participants, factors that may be considered for such consensus-based invitations, and procedures for designating leadership of the Steering Group and working groups. Operating structures and procedures are described in Appendix 2.

4. International Framework Expert-Based Working Group Activities

The Executive Committee established Working Groups at its September 16, 2007, meeting to provide focus for concrete activities and a means to address agreed to objectives. The objectives of these Working Groups are defined below. Additional detail regarding the initial efforts in these two priority areas is provided in the Working Groups' Terms of Reference (See Appendix 3). In exercising their activities, the Working Groups recognize the critical and complementary roles of industry, governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international institutions

and fora (e.g. Generation IV International Forum). The Working Groups are expected to continue their activities as part of the International Framework.

4.1 Infrastructure Development Working Group

The Infrastructure Development Working Group operates within the “Scope” section of its Terms of Reference, which specify that it should support the sustainable, efficient, safe, and secure expansion of nuclear power to help meet growing energy demand by serving as a forum for the exchange of ideas. The Infrastructure Development Working Group is particularly focused on the safe and efficient operation of nuclear power plants, the safe, secure and sustainable management of radioactive waste and the efficient, sustainable and safe advance of nuclear support infrastructure, particularly human resources development. The Terms of Reference for the Infrastructure Development Working Group is attached in Appendix 3.

4.2 Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group

The Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group carries out work on the issues specified in the “Scope” section of its Terms of Reference. It is focused on reliable, cost-effective fuel services and supplies to the world market, and supports discussion and recommendations to improve international supply frameworks to provide options for generating nuclear energy and fostering development while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation by creating a viable alternative to acquisition of sensitive fuel cycle technologies. The Terms of Reference for the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group is attached in Appendix 3.

5. Ongoing Actions

On September 29, 2011, the IFNEC Executive Committee held its second¹ meeting in Warsaw, Poland where ministers and other senior officials met to review and discuss ongoing activities, the results of these activities, and further steps to facilitate the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a manner that promotes safety, security and non-proliferation. The IDWG reported that it continues to focus heavily on human resources development with a workshop in December 2010 in Italy and plans to transfer the Human Resource Development Modelling Tool to the International Atomic Energy Agency. It is also focusing on several specific areas in radioactive waste management, informing about the development and economics of small modular reactors, and sharing information on country assessments. The Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group reported that it has merged the two sub-working groups, “approaches a country should seek as sufficient for fuel supply” and “lessons learned and perspective for resources requirements” into a new sub-working group, “Resources requirements and fuel supply.” The sub-working group on “Approaches for selecting back-end fuel cycle options” is preparing an overview document on current back-end practices with the aim of making a synthesis of existing practices and references, focusing on the main issues without entering into technical details. In addition, the Working Group is considering the Comprehensive Fuel Services (CFS) approach with planned participation from industry.

6. Structure for International Framework Execution

The structure of the International Framework is described in Figure 1. Figure 2 describes the process by which the International Framework conducts its activities based on goals and objectives as adopted by the Executive Committee.

¹ Three previous Executive Committee meetings were held between 2007 and 2009 under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

FIGURE 1
INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION
STRUCTURE (as of September 28, 2011)

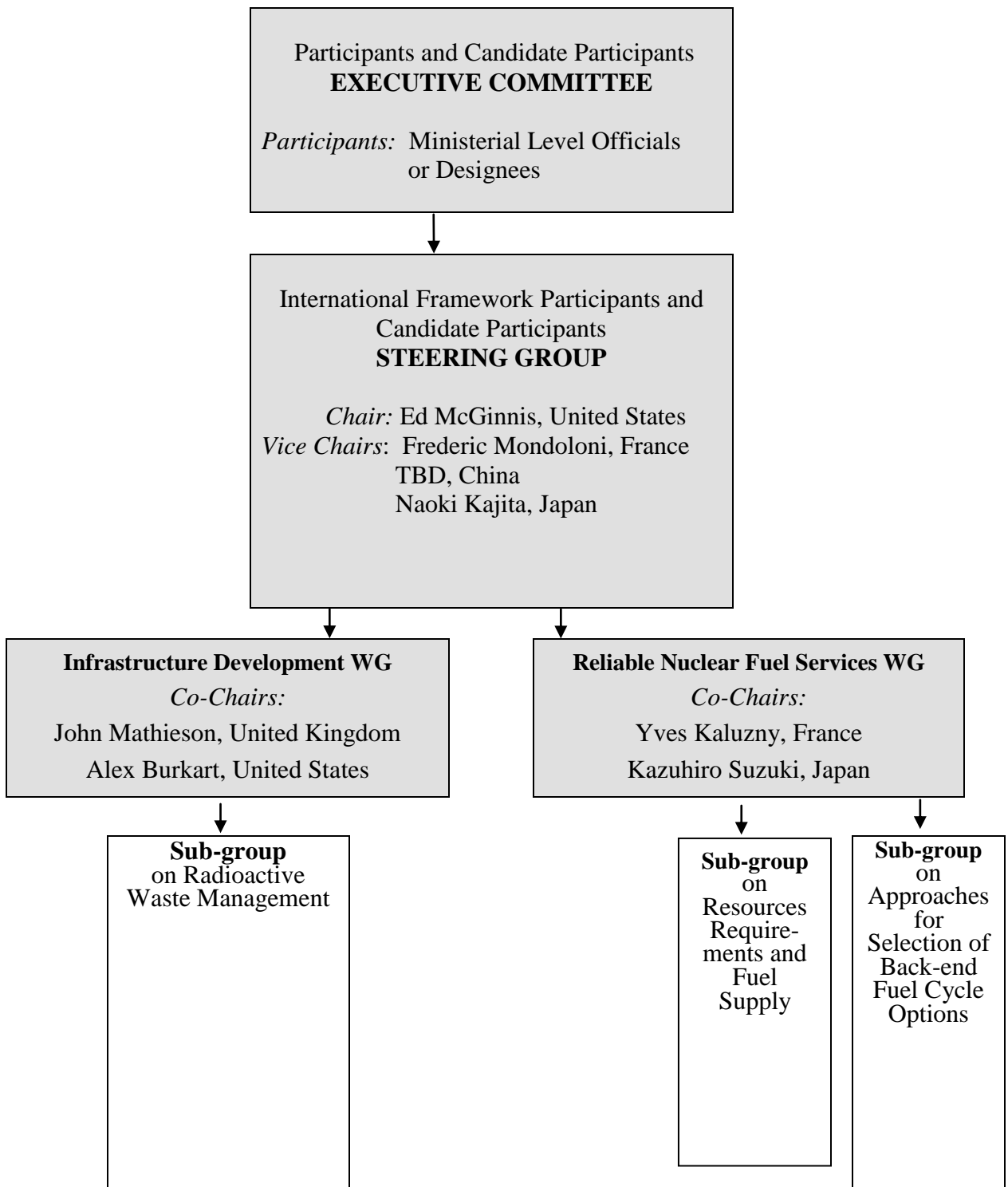
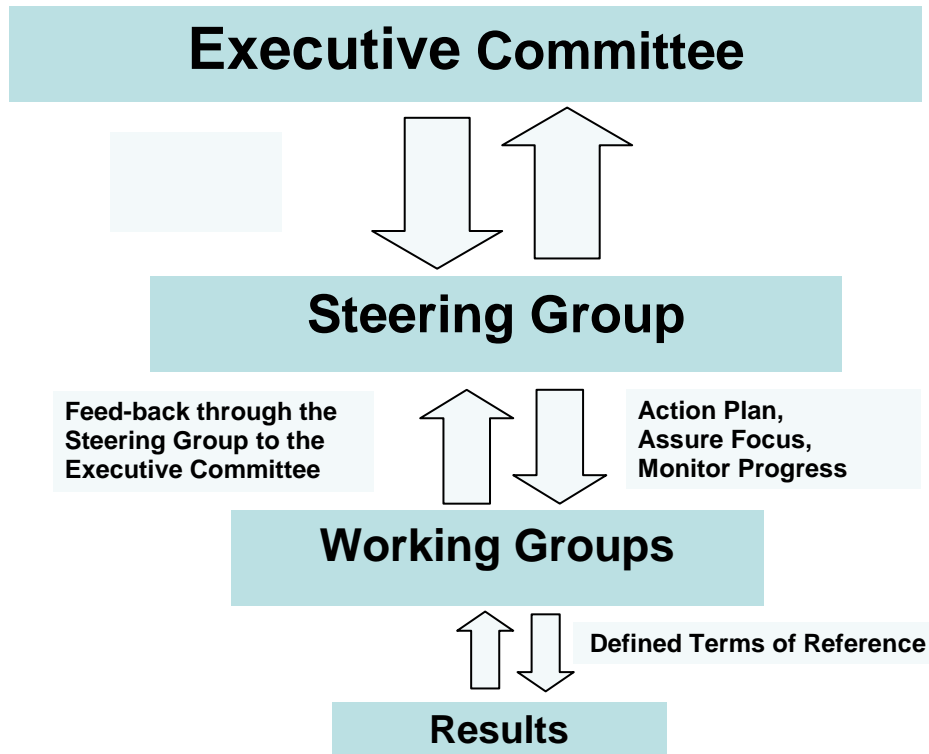


FIGURE 2
PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES



Milestones for the Steering Group to implement this Action Plan are summarized in Appendix 4.

7. Resources

The resources used to carry out International Framework activities are voluntary and envisioned to come either from contributions by International Framework Participants, or third-parties if appropriate, and accepted by the Participants. Resources may include in-kind resources (e.g., facilities, expertise, training, materials, and assessment tools) and funding. Overall management and oversight of resources received by or contributed to the International Framework is to be the responsibility of the Steering Group, on behalf of the Executive Committee. Such oversight is intended to be executed in a manner consistent with requests or requirements of contributors. At the direction of the Steering Group, Working Groups are to provide management and coordination of resources contributed towards their activities. The Chair of the Steering Group, in coordination with the Vice-Chairs, will manage and maintain overall accounting of such resources and report the use of such resources to the Executive Committee on an annual basis.

8. Summary

This Action Plan outlines priorities, mechanisms for executing cooperative efforts, and initial milestones for cooperative activities. The result of this work is intended to support the exploration of mutually beneficial approaches that support the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in a manner that is safe and secure and that strengthens the nuclear nonproliferation regime. The Action Plan is to be updated as needed to assure continued progress towards achieving this goal.

APPENDIX 1
INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION
STATEMENT OF MISSION

The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation provides a forum for cooperation among participating states to explore mutually beneficial approaches to ensure the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes proceeds in a manner that is efficient and meets the highest standards of security, safety and non-proliferation. Participating states would not give up any rights and voluntarily engage to share the effort and gain the benefits of economical, peaceful nuclear energy.

APPENDIX 2
**INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION
OPERATING DOCUMENTS**

Participation

The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation is a forum of cooperation for those sovereign States that share the common vision as set out in the Statement of Mission.

IFNEC Countries and Organizations

- *Invitation to join IFNEC:* a new country, an Observer Country, or a new international organization may be invited to participate in the International Framework by consensus of IFNEC Participants. The Chair of the Steering Group will send a letter of invitation on behalf of the Executive Committee.
- A decision to invite a country to participate in the International Framework will take into account the country's participation in international instruments and activities relevant to nuclear safety, security, safeguards and non-proliferation, and its compliance with its international obligations in these areas.
- *Participants:* An invited country becomes a Participant by making an official statement of endorsement of the Statement of Mission by letter to the Chair of the Executive Committee or verbally at an Executive Committee meeting.
- *Observer Countries:* An invited country will be an Observer Country while it considers the invitation. The country may take a period of up to two years to accept the invitation to become a Participant. After the expiration of the invitation period, an Observer Country will require consensus to become a Participant. If the country does not become a Participant in two years, it may continue as an Observer Country.
- *Observer Organizations:* A new international organization becomes an Observer Organization by accepting the invitation to join the International Framework by letter to the Chair of the Executive Committee.
- Observer Countries will be permitted to attend IFNEC meetings in order to better understand IFNEC's mission prior to endorsing the Statement of Mission. However, the Observer Countries and Observer Organizations will not participate in any IFNEC decision-making.

Executive Committee, Steering Group and Working Groups

Cooperation and decision making among the Participants are based on consensus that requires effective coordination and implementation. For this purpose, the following organization structure is established:

- *Executive Committee:* members are the Ministerial-level officials designated from each Participant country and organization. The Executive Committee is expected to convene annually, or more often as may be agreed by the members of the Executive Committee. When the Executive Committee meets in a Participant state, that state is expected to serve as the Chair and host of the Executive Committee meeting.

- *Steering Group*: members are designated by the Participants' Executive Committee members. All Steering Group activities are to be carried out at the direction of, and consistent with, decisions of the Executive Committee. The Steering Group serves as the body to carry out actions on behalf of Executive Committee and may seek guidance from it as necessary. The Steering Group may establish a Chair and Vice-Chairs, as agreed upon by consensus of the Steering Group. The Chair and Vice-Chairs should serve for a period of not longer than two years, unless incumbents of those positions are reaffirmed for an additional term or terms.
- *Working Groups* are to be established at the request of the Participants in order to carry out work in particular areas. The Steering Group is expected to approve Terms of Reference for each Working Group and duration of the activity. The Working Groups may establish a Chair and Vice-Chairs, as agreed upon by consensus of the Working Group. Each Working Group will carry out its activities at the direction of and consistent with the Terms of Reference and recommendations of the Executive Committee and Steering Group. The Working Groups may recommend to disband any Working Groups or amend their Terms of Reference. The Chair and Vice-Chair should serve for a period of not longer than two years, unless incumbents of those positions are reaffirmed for an additional term.

APPENDIX 3
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUPS

WORKING GROUP ON INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference

Adopted June 2010

This Terms of Reference describes a proposed scope, objectives and initial set of deliverables for the Infrastructure Development Working Group to support the cooperative goals outlined in the Steering Group Action Plan. It is understood that the specific activities may evolve as the Infrastructure Development Working Group engagement continues to be integrated with other initiatives.

OBJECTIVE

The Infrastructure Development Working Group (Working Group) is established to carry out work on the issues specified in the Scope section below to support the expansion of nuclear power to help meet growing energy demand in a sustainable manner and in a way that provides safe operations of nuclear power plants and management of wastes by facilitating the development of the infrastructure needed for worldwide expansion of clean, sustainable, nuclear energy in a safe and secure manner, while at the same time reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

SCOPE

This Working Group is to identify common interest among the Participants, recommend practical measures, and carry out activities as specified below and without prejudice to market and commercial operations to address the critical elements needed for the development and implementation of a robust nuclear energy infrastructure to meet the above mentioned objective. These include, but are not limited to, cooperation among Participants in the areas of national planning for nuclear energy introduction, grid management requirements for the introduction of nuclear power plants, including regional sharing, human resource development, meeting nonproliferation and safeguards requirements, legal frameworks, regulatory requirements, nuclear safety, financing considerations, environmental impacts, emergency management, radiation protection, quality assurance, codes and standards, operational practices and experiences, physical protection and security, spent fuel, waste management and transportation, while taking full advantage of IAEA and bilateral efforts. When possible and necessary, activities are to be coordinated with the Working Group on Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services.

ACTIVITIES

To help leverage the Participants' resources as they may make available for this purpose (e.g. technical capabilities, experience) and to focus cooperative efforts and prioritize infrastructure development activities, the Working Group will exchange views on the following issues:

- Improving the understanding of needs, challenges and potential solutions necessary for taking Working Group objectives from concept to reality. This could include the following:
 1. Determining infrastructure needs of the Participants.
 2. Identifying areas of global infrastructure that could be improved through international cooperation (fuel services notwithstanding) in coordination with multilateral organizations and fora such as the IAEA or GIF.
 3. Identifying relevant on-going activities to support infrastructure development (multilateral, bilateral, and other) in Participant states.
 4. Identifying resources and potential opportunities for cooperation among Participants.
 5. Characterizing financial and organizational barriers to the introduction/expansion of nuclear power and identify means to address them.
- Developing a path forward that reflects the interests, concerns, and contributions of Participants.
- Evaluating options for additional resources, such as in-kind (*inter alia* cost-free experts, internships, university programs) assistance or funding mechanisms to support the relevant activities.
- Implementing concrete actions and investments. Take realistic and pragmatic next-steps that increase benefits to Participants.

In exercising its activities, the Working Group recognizes the critical and complementary roles of industry, governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international institutions.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to pursue infrastructure activities of value to IDWG members including the sharing of information on Human Resource Development, Small and Medium Reactors, Financing and Radioactive Waste Management. Continue to utilize at resource library to facilitate sharing of information.
- Continue to engage with relevant international organizations and fora such as the Generation IV International Forum, based upon consensus, to cooperate closely with the Working Group activities.
- Annually update the program plan for the Infrastructure Development Working Group.
- Complete fact finding on issues specified and prepare report to the Steering Group.
- Initiate engagement with regulators.

WORKING GROUP ON RELIABLE NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES

Terms of Reference

Adopted June 2010

This Terms of Reference describes a proposed scope, objectives and initial set of deliverables for the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group to support the cooperative goals outlined in the Steering Group Action Plan. It is understood that the specific activities may evolve as the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group engagement matures and continues to be integrated with other initiatives.

OBJECTIVE

The Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (Working Group) is established to carry out work on the issues specified in the Scope section below to support cooperation of the Participants to reach the objective to establish international supply frameworks to enhance reliable, cost-effective fuel services and supplies to the world market, providing options for generating nuclear energy and fostering development while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation.

SCOPE

A variety of approaches have been proposed for enhancing reliability of nuclear fuel services, especially with regard to the front-end of the fuel cycle. For the establishment of reliable “comprehensive fuel service” approaches, it is essential to consider pathways and constraints that suppliers and users might have in particular with regard to legal, political, and commercial considerations.

The Working Group will identify common interest among the Participants and recommend practical measures for moving towards reliable comprehensive fuel service arrangements . In developing these measures, the Working Group will:

- Emphasize the need for approaches that are consistent with equal rights and obligations, without prejudice to market and commercial operations and which are as much as possible independent of specific country or region;
- Emphasize the need for solutions that meet public acceptability requirements and are technically feasible and economically viable.
- Prepare recommendations for the improvement of the international framework for reliable Comprehensive Fuel Service arrangements.

ACTIVITIES

The ability to meet the proposed activities and target dates is subject to agreements among International Framework Participants for providing sufficient resources for the work. To address these issues, the Working Group will:

- Exchange views on and, as appropriate, identify, assess and develop possible responses on:
 - Government and non-governmental capabilities.
 - Common practices.
 - Limitations.
 - Recipient and user requirements.
 - Respective legal and regulatory frameworks.
 - Respective commercial frameworks.

- The relationship between state-level fuel supply assurances and commercial providers of uranium and fuel cycle services.
- Public acceptability requirements.
- Consult with the Infrastructure Development Working Group as needed.
- Submit a report to the Steering Group summarizing the work accomplished, recommending practical measures to move towards comprehensive reliable fuel service arrangements, and recommendations for the next phase of the Working Group's work.

In exercising its activities, the Working Group recognizes the critical and complementary roles of industry, governments, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international institutions.

NEXT STEPS

- Complete fact finding on issues specified in the Scope section.
- Continue activities on compiling lessons learned on national implementation of fuel cycle policy and strategy, on resources requirements and fuel supply and on approaches for selection of back-end fuel cycle options.
- Continue to interact with relevant international organizations such as the IAEA to take advantage of the already existing results or on-going activities which could contribute to the achievement of the RNFS scope of work.
- Report to the Steering Group on the findings of this group; recommend critical pathways forward in the development of reliable comprehensive nuclear fuel service arrangements.

APPENDIX 5

List of International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation Participants (As of September 2011)

Participants

Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Estonia
France
Germany
Ghana
Hungary
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Republic of Korea
Kuwait
Lithuania
Morocco
Netherlands
Oman
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Slovenia
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States

Observer Countries

Algeria
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Chile
Czech Republic
Egypt
Finland
Georgia
Greece
Indonesia
Latvia
Malaysia
Mexico
Mongolia
Nigeria
Philippines
Qatar
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tanzania
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Vietnam

Observer Organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency
Generation IV International Forum
EURATOM