

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.