



The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation
Joint Statement
6th Executive Committee Meeting
Sinaia, Romania
October 23rd, 2015

The Executive Committee of the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) held its annual Executive Committee meeting on October 23rd, 2015, in Sinaia, Romania. Representatives from the 65 Participant and Observer countries as well as senior representatives from the four Permanent International Observer Organizations of IFNEC expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Romania for graciously and effectively chairing the 2015 Executive Committee Meeting as well as for hosting the Steering Group and Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group meetings in Sinaia earlier in the week. During the Executive Committee Meeting, Sierra Leone was welcomed as the newest Participant Country and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) was recognized in its new and key role as the Technical Secretariat for IFNEC.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed IFNEC's mission to provide a forum for cooperation among participating countries 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 safety, security and non-proliferation.

It was acknowledged that the demand for affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy sources continues to represent a vitally important need of countries throughout the world, and that many countries continue to use, or seek to deploy for the first time, nuclear energy in order to help meet those needs. It also recognized the increasingly important role nuclear energy is playing globally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Executive Committee expressed its support for global greenhouse gas reduction efforts, including the forthcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21, to be held December 2015 in Paris.

However, the ability to finance nuclear-related projects, ranging from the development of new and replacement electricity generating capacity to operational enhancements and safety upgrades continues to be a challenge for a number of countries. The Executive Committee called on the various relevant leading stakeholders, including multilateral and regional development banks, energy planning authorities, industry, and the regulatory community, to work together to address this financing challenge. Moreover, IFNEC Representatives

recognized that the costing and financing of decommissioning and waste management was an essential consideration that must be factored in as well.

The Executive Committee also recognized the importance of having a global nuclear liability regime based upon treaty relations among all countries that might be affected by a nuclear accident. It noted that the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Brussels Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention, the Joint Protocol Related to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention and the protocols amending these conventions, and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, and notes that these conventions can provide the basis for establishing a worldwide nuclear liability regime based on the principles of nuclear liability law.

The Executive Committee recognized the importance of the international cooperation and aimed to work with other international forums and organizations that support the safe, secure, and sustainable use of nuclear energy, especially with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the OECD.

The Executive Committee reviewed IFNEC's activities that have occurred since its last meeting on October 24, 2014, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and recognized the following important actions by the Steering Group, Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG), and Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (RNFSWG) since then:

- Official transition of the IFNEC Technical Secretariat function to the NEA;
- Voluntary financial contributions being made by the United States, Poland, France, and Japan to support of the IFNEC Technical Secretariat;
- The holding of a Special Session on Nuclear Financing with leading stakeholders that addressed current challenges and opportunities facing the nuclear industry;
- The hosting by Kenya in April in Mombasa of a first-of-its-kind jointly sponsored IAEA-IFNEC Regional Conference on Energy and Nuclear Power in Africa that was funded by the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative and included representatives from approximately 35 African countries. The Conference developed numerous constructive recommendations with a particular focus on regional approaches and solutions to the development of energy and nuclear energy-related projects. It was also agreed that planning for a follow-on conference would proceed.
- The Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG) meeting that was held in Paris in June included exchanges of information on topics of interest on nuclear safety, progress in national programs, human resource development, information on infrastructure support to comprehensive fuel services, and in particular briefings from the IAEA on its newly released report, "Lessons Learned from Fukushima" and its new SMR Regulators Forum; the report on the IAEA-INPRO Dialogue Forum 10 "Multilateral Cooperative Approaches to the Back End of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle" and examination of the third party role in spent fuel transfers consent rights; and the special presentation from industry on the role of codes and standards in establishing a nuclear program.

- With regards to activities of the RNFSWG, the work conducted to clarify the challenges, opportunities and possible paths forward for a multinational repository, in particular for the benefit of small fleet and emerging markets.
- The RNFSWG meeting held in October in Sinaia, Romania, to further advance the multilateral repository concept, including identification of the critical issues and risks associated with the development of a multinational repository.

The NEA, in its new role as Technical Secretariat, provided an overview of its expert-based activities and capabilities. It also committed to providing an annual status report to the Executive Committee that included a full tracking of voluntary contribution expenditure and an overall report of IFNEC Technical Secretariat activities. The Technical Secretariat will also propose, in conjunction with the Steering Group, ways by which to institutionalize to the maximum degree possible transparency of actions and appropriate task management processes based on expected outcomes.

The Executive Committee:

- Agreed that IFNEC should continue to address the challenges and opportunities associated with the financing of nuclear-related activities, which range from nuclear power deployment projects and power uprates to safety and security upgrades, and decommissioning and waste disposal projects;
- Approved for IFNEC and NEA to prepare a nuclear conference in Paris in 2016 that will convene leading nuclear and finance stakeholders to further address challenges and opportunities associated with the financing of nuclear-related projects, such as optimal market structuring approaches;
- Expressed strong support for the work being done by the RNFSWG, in particular its work on multilateral repositories, and encouraged continued work in this area while being mindful of the sensitivities of some countries to this approach;
- Strongly supports the RNFSWG's continued study in 2016 on its Multinational Repository Concept Paper "Exploring the Consideration of a Multinational Repository", including its work directed at identifying and developing critical issues of importance to a number of IFNEC Participant and Observer countries associated with the development of a multinational repository;
- Recommended IFNEC to work together with new IAEA-INPRO study on cooperative approach to the fuel cycle back end;
- Welcomed the Africa Regional Conference as responsive to its earlier calls for a regional infrastructure development event in Africa, and expressed its pleasure at the development of IFNEC-IAEA relations;
- Took note of the IAEA's support to infrastructure development in emerging nuclear countries;
- Strongly supported the IDWG's work and praised its outreach with leading stakeholders and focus on key infrastructure-related issues such as human capital development;

- Encouraged the IDWG to also focus on the importance of stakeholder communications in order to enhance awareness of nuclear energy's role and contribution for mitigating the imminent threat of climate change;
- Recognized IFNEC Participant and Observer country contributions to support the NEA in its role as IFNEC Technical Secretariat, including from Japan, the United States, Poland, and France, and recognized the NEA's Technical Secretariat commitment to manage and account for voluntary contributions;
- Directed the Steering Group to, jointly with the Technical Secretariat, systematically review IFNEC activities with recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Committee that reflects prioritization, gained efficiencies, and potential for maximum tangible benefits. Such review process should include a feedback process with IFNEC Participant countries in terms of their needs and priorities for appropriate initiation and conclusion of various IFNEC activities.
- Directed the Steering Group to develop a work plan on an annual basis with the support of the IFNEC Technical Secretariat; and
- Encouraged all Participant and Observer countries to consider voluntarily contributing to NEA in its role of Technical Secretariat on the basis of the work plan decided on by the Steering Group for the subsequent year and the evaluation of related Technical Secretariat costs as communicated by NEA; and
- Noted that the Executive Committee may ask the Steering Group to review the effectiveness and efficiency of this system and make recommendations for improvement after it has been in place for one cycle.

The Executive Committee will make a decision at a later date as to the venue of the 2016 Executive Committee Meeting.