



The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation

Joint Statement

5th Executive Committee Meeting

Seoul, Republic of Korea

October 17th, 2014

The Executive Committee of the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) held its annual meeting on October 17th, 2014 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Ministers and other senior representatives participating in this meeting from over 40 countries and International Organizations expressed to the Republic of Korea their sincere appreciation for graciously hosting and chairing the 2014 Executive Committee Meeting and addressed issues relevant to IFNEC activities.

The Executive Committee welcomes the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA) as a Permanent IFNEC Observer Organization, invites the Republic of Niger to join IFNEC as a Participant country, and encourages Observer Countries to join IFNEC as Participant Countries. IFNEC now consists of 63 Participant and Observer countries and four permanent Observer International Inter-governmental Organizations.

IFNEC is dedicated to serving as 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. IFNEC focuses on a number of important and pressing nuclear energy matters facing the global community, such as the continued challenge of financing of nuclear power projects, the promising opportunities presented by Small Modular Reactors, the importance of regional and international used fuel storage and long-term radioactive waste management, including disposal for future back-end options, and the key issue of infrastructure development, in particular of human resources. IFNEC is committed to providing a platform to discuss these challenges and assisting countries in developing solutions that are specific to their needs.

In this respect, the Executive Committee re-affirmed the value of IFNEC to each of its Participant and Observer countries as they develop and deploy nuclear energy resources that are safe, secure, and environmentally friendly and have a high level of proliferation resistance. A number of these countries are seeking to deploy nuclear generation for the first time and face significant challenges, including obtaining adequate financing, developing sufficient human resources, public acceptance, determining possible back-end fuel management pathways, and developing a robust and independent nuclear regulator.

The Executive Committee took note of the Steering Group Chair and the co-chairs of the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group and the Infrastructure Development Working Group Reports representing a broad array of beneficial activities during the last period. The Executive Committee commends the Steering Group and expert working groups for their excellent work and expresses its

particular appreciation for their accomplishments. In connection with this, the Executive Committee extends its sincere appreciation:

- to Romania for hosting the Steering Group and Working Groups along with a special finance session, during the same week in May 2014 leading to increased attendance at all three meetings and welcomes the positive results of them; and
- to Jordan for hosting several IFNEC activities: Steering Group Meeting in 2008, Steering Group Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting in 2010, in addition to the SMR Workshop in June 2014.

In particular, the Executive Committee noted the following:

- A multi-year effort to examine the challenges and opportunities facing IFNEC countries regarding financing nuclear energy projects via stakeholder-wide workshops;
- The need to support efforts regarding public awareness for newly embarking countries on nuclear energy;
- A Report on “Small Modular Reactor Option Deployment Plans”, based on the SMR workshop in Jordan with government and industry experts;
- A “Report on Optional Approaches to Finance Structuring of Nuclear Projects”;
- The work of the Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG) on SMR technologies and waste management issues that were addressed with stakeholders during the Bucharest working group meeting, which complemented the SMR, and Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Waste workshops; and
- A report on the Workshop held by the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Service Working Group in Bucharest, Romania, in May 2014, on the subject of “Developing Options and Pathways for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste.” The Workshop was a follow up to the “CFS Discussion Paper” addressing the benefits and challenges associated with creating international disposal options for the back-end of the fuel cycle. Some IFNEC countries noted that they will dispose of any spent fuel they used in their own country according to their own spent fuel management policies while recognizing that multinational disposal could be a possible future option, particularly for countries with small reactor fleets.

The Executive Committee also laid out its priorities for IFNEC activities and issued guidance for the working groups to pursue through 2015:

- The concept of a multinational repository merits being addressed more in depth within the IFNEC forum to expand the understanding by IFNEC countries of both the challenges associated with the concept of developing multinational spent fuel disposal options and the benefits that the options would provide, particularly to countries with limited capabilities to site, construct and operate their own geologic repository for the disposal of spent fuel and high-level waste;
- In order to further address the multinational disposal options concept, the RNFSWG should identify and address key issues related to this concept in coordination with the IDWG and interested IFNEC countries. This effort should include industries willing to support this process. Key issues such as seeking approaches to addressing the need for international cooperation in exploring the development of disposal options, and the economics of a multinational repository project and the infrastructure development requirements should be considered;

- Encourage the RNFSWG to pursue expert-based collaboration in its activities with the OECD/NEA and IAEA, while taking care of complementarities and avoiding duplication of activities;
- The RNFSWG should complete a “forward looking” report taking into account the lessons learned from the May 2014 Workshop in Romania and identify key issues for further discussions;
- The IDWG should continue to address important issues in developing the national infrastructures countries need for safe and secure pursuit of a nuclear energy program, including human resource development, nuclear regulatory development, emergency management planning, long-term radioactive waste management, reactor technology options, and needs assessments;
- The IDWG should continue to explore ways by which IFNEC may be able to contribute through fostering collaborative and innovative approaches to the important issues of safety, security and non-proliferation, and raising awareness of the issue of nuclear liability, including the need for a global nuclear liability regime;
- The IDWG should hold in 2015 the postponed Resources and Gaps Workshop focusing on opportunities and challenges associated with the development of nuclear energy in Africa, where key issues such as human resource development, siting, regulatory issues and licensing will be addressed. This workshop should be held in a manner that complements work done by the IAEA and other international organizations. The results of the workshop should be reported by the IDWG Co-Chairs at the 2015 Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee notes the interest to explore the possible involvement of multilateral development banks with respect to nuclear energy financing, with the understanding that the Steering Group will report to the Executive Committee on the possible ways to proceed in 2015.

Recognizing the significant experience OECD/NEA has with executing technical secretariat functions in a highly effective manner, such as in the Generation IV International Forum and Multinational Design Evaluation Program, and given the positive contribution it would make to IFNEC as the technical secretariat, the Executive Committee:

- Agreed to invite the OECD/NEA to consider serving as the technical secretariat of IFNEC;
- Agreed that, upon acceptance by the OECD/NEA, it will serve as the IFNEC technical secretariat with the understanding that all funding necessary for the OECD/NEA function must be based exclusively on voluntary contributions from IFNEC Participant Countries; and
- Instructed the Steering Group Chair to prepare together with the OECD/NEA Secretariat, an agreed understanding of the requirements, an estimation of the required annual financing, proposals for possible ways to make voluntary contributions to the OECD/NEA and a mechanism of financial reports and auditing. The results of this estimation should be conveyed at the spring 2015 Steering Group Meeting and then reported by the Steering Group Chair at the 2015 Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee:

- Approves Romania serving as host and chair of the 2015 IFNEC Executive Committee meeting and expressed great appreciation to Romania in this respect.