



## **Joint Statement**

10<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC, United States of America  
13 November 2019

The Executive Committee of the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) held its annual meeting on 13 November 2019, in Washington, DC in the United States of America. Ministers and senior representatives from nineteen Participant Countries, two Observer Countries and four Observer Organizations met to recognize the past year's accomplishments and discuss the future impact and direction of IFNEC.

The Executive Committee expressed sincere appreciation to the United States for graciously hosting this year's Executive Committee Meeting, the Steering Group, the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (RNFSWG), and the Global Ministerial Conference on *Bringing the World SMRs and Advanced Nuclear*. The Global Ministerial Conference attracted more than 260 participants and included a special session at the White House. The conference focused on the importance of bringing innovative technologies to market and how nations develop, demonstrate, and deploy these advanced technologies.

The Executive Committee reaffirmed the contributions of nuclear energy around the world as a safe, secure, clean, abundant energy source for addressing climate issues with both electric and non-electric applications. The Executive Committee also noted the important role of IFNEC in addressing the challenges of:

- financing new nuclear projects, improving cost efficiency, and attracting investment in an increasingly competitive global market;
- maintaining a strong safety culture;
- maintaining strong, independent nuclear regulation;
- developing enhanced tools and techniques to assist with gaining public awareness and maintaining consistent stakeholder engagement;
- reducing legal, regulatory, and geopolitical barriers to regional and international collaboration; and
- developing and implementing cost-effective solutions for managing the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The Executive Committee directed the Steering Group to draft a vision and strategy for how IFNEC members can better collaborate to address these six challenges. The Steering Group will report their accomplishments against the vision and strategy at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee recognized the RNFSWG for their continued work on developing and financing multinational repositories and congratulated the Working Group for their successful

meeting, including a very insightful panel on risk management for megaprojects, held in Washington DC. The Executive Committee extended a special thank you to the Working Group's Co-Chairs Mr. Tomaž Žagar (Slovenia) and Mr. Sean Tyson (United States) for their leadership. The Working Group was encouraged to continue its important work on issues associated with the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

The Executive Committee also commended the Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG) for their work on export controls as an enabler of nuclear cooperation, including this year's successful Working Group Meeting in Beijing, China, hosted by the China National Energy Administration in June, as well as the workshop on non-electric applications held in Warsaw, Poland in September, hosted by the Ministry of Energy. The Executive Committee extended their sincere appreciation to the Working Group Co-Chairs Mr. Zbigniew Kubacki (Poland) and Dr. Alex Burkart (United States) for their service. Dr. Burkart was recognized for his years of excellent leadership, upon his stepping down as Working Group Co-Chair, and the Executive Committee welcomed Dr. Kenneth M. Goff (United States) as the new Working Group Co-Chair. The Executive Committee recommended the IDWG to propose a strategy to engage with multilateral development banks and financial institutions to raise the issue of financing nuclear projects, for review by the Steering Group.

The Executive Committee also recognized the work of the Nuclear Supplier and Customer Countries Engagement Group (NSCCEG) for their focus on best practices in developing nuclear safety culture. The NSCCEG also held a successful meeting in Beijing in June 2019. The Executive Committee thanked Ambassador Rafael Grossi (Argentina) and Mr. Fumikazu Sato (Japan) for their leadership. Ambassador Grossi was congratulated on his new position as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and thanked for his service. The Executive Committee welcomed the new NSCCEG Co-Chairs, Mr. Facundo Deluchi (Argentina) and Mr. Kenji Totoki (Japan) and the addition of China as the third Co-Chair to be represented by Mr. SHI Lishan. The NSCCEG was encouraged to expand its scope of work to include exploration of new approaches to nuclear project financing.

The Executive Committee extended its deepest appreciation for the leadership of Steering Group Chair Julian Gadano (Argentina) over the past two years. The Executive Committee congratulated Suzanne Jaworowski (United States) on assuming the role of Steering Group Chair. It also commended the current Steering Group Vice Chairs for their stewardship of IFNEC: Mr. Shi Lishan (China), Mr. Collins Juma (Kenya), Mr. Vladimir Artisyuk (Russian Federation), and Ms. Suzanne Jaworowski (United States). Mr. Kenji Totoki was welcomed as the replacement for Mr. Sato as Japan's Vice Chair and also welcomed Mr. Facundo Deluchi as Vice Chair (Argentina).

The Executive Committee thanked the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) for serving as the Technical Secretariat and extended its appreciation to NEA Director-General Mr. William D. Magwood, IV and the NEA staff. It also reiterated its call to Member Countries to ensure the Technical Secretariat is sufficiently funded to continue its work in support of IFNEC. The Executive Committee thanked Dr. Henri Paillere, Technical Secretariat Coordinator, for his years of service.

Finally, the Executive Committee expressed its vision for IFNEC in the coming year. It will prioritize the pressing issues of climate change and a global clean energy future, including through important collaborations with other organizations, such as the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Nuclear Association (WNA), the Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future (NICE Future) initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM) and the International Youth Nuclear Congress (IYNC). In addition, the Executive Committee encouraged continued focus on the role advanced nuclear technology can play in achieving those goals.

With this vision in mind, the Executive Committee encouraged all IFNEC Member Countries to share their perspectives and participate actively in future IFNEC activities, including the next Executive Committee Meeting to be hosted by Kenya in 2020.