



Joint Statement

Joint Executive Committee & Steering Group Meeting
Virtual Meeting
12 November 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic crisis has brought immense implications for businesses, shuttering the economies and societies worldwide. Like the rest of the world, the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) has to adjust its practices to adapt to the new situation. The Executive Committee Meeting and the 2020 Global Ministerial Conference, initially planned for Mombasa, Kenya, are postponed to 2021. The Executive Committee (EC) held a joint virtual meeting with the Steering Group (SG) on 12 November 2020 to review the ongoing activities' status. Ministers and senior representatives from nineteen (19) Participant Countries, two (2) Observer Countries, four (4) Observer Organizations and many industry representatives met virtually to recognize the past year's accomplishments and discuss the future impact and direction of IFNEC.

The Executive Committee commended the Steering Group Leadership for its quick adaption to maintain its operation over this turbulent period. The EC noted the successful webinars held in June 2020, exploring the challenges and options of small modular reactors (SMRs) deployment. The virtual discussions confirmed the potential of nuclear in contributing to a reliable and resilient clean energy infrastructure, a particularly important matter in many emerging economies in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

The Executive Committee noted the Steering Group would finalize the draft of the IFNEC document on vision and strategy in early 2021. The Steering Group will report the accomplishments in addressing the six challenges described in the 2019 Joint Statement at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee may also revisit the challenges identified later (e.g., 2023) to determine whether further actions are needed.

The Executive Committee extended its appreciation for Steering Group Chair Ms. Suzanne Jaworowski's (United States) leadership over the past year. The Executive Committee sincerely thanked Ms. Aleshia Duncan (United States) for seamlessly assuming the role of Steering Group Chair. The Committee also commended the current IFNEC Steering Group Vice-Chairs, Mr. Shi Lishan (China), Mr. Collins Juma (Kenya), Mr. Vladimir Artisyuk (Russian Federation), and Mr. Facundo Deluchi (Argentina) for their stewardship, and welcomed Mr. Yoshihide Esaki as the replacement for Mr. Kenji Totoki as Japan's Vice-Chair.

The Executive Committee commended the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (RNFSWG) for its leadership in exploring important issues related to the challenges IFNEC members

face with the back end of the fuel cycle and recognizes the importance of continued coordination with the IAEA in Working Group activities. Of particular note were the outreach efforts to promote IFNEC through organizing sessions in the Waste Management Symposia and the New Europe Nuclear Energy 2020 Conference. The Executive Committee expressed its appreciation for organizing expert panels and conducting informative and well-attended webinars on the multinational repository concept and deep borehole disposal technology. The Executive Committee expressed their sincere appreciation to the Working Group Co-Chairs, Dr. Tomaž Žagar (Slovenia), and Mr. Sean Tyson (United States) for their leadership.

The Executive Committee also commended the Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG) for their continued collaboration with the IAEA and the NEA in achieving its objectives. The Executive Committee noted the planning of a 2021 Joint IFNEC/NEA workshop on Innovative Financing of Nuclear, and that the Working Group will develop a strategy to engage with multilateral development banks and financial institutions to explore practical approaches in managing financing cost and risk in nuclear projects. The Committee also recognized the postponement of the IDWG's workshop on Advanced Nuclear Licensing until late 2021. The Executive Committee expressed their sincere appreciation to the Working Group Co-Chairs, Mr. Zbigniew Kubacki (Poland), and Dr. Kenneth M. Goff (United States) for their dedication and vision.

The Executive Committee recognized the efforts of the Nuclear Supplier and Customer Countries Engagement Group (NSCCEG) in exploring new approaches to manage nuclear financing. The Committee particularly appreciated the outreach endeavors of the NSCCEG at the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) and cooperation with NICE Future initiative for enhancing the visibility of IFNEC and the ongoing research reports on nuclear financing, international cooperation on SMR, and international cooperation on nuclear power. The Committee welcomed the Working Group to actively share the research results with all participant countries. The Executive Committee thanked the NSCCEG Co-Chairs, Mr. Facundo Deluchi (Argentina), Mr. SHI Lishan (China), and Mr. Yoshihide Esaki (Japan) for leading the NSCCEG in achieving its objectives.

The Executive Committee thanked the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) for providing technical support and extended its appreciation to NEA Director-General Mr. William D. Magwood, IV and the NEA staff. The Committee also stressed the importance for Member Countries to financially support the Technical Secretariat to ensure sufficient resources are available to IFNEC.

The Executive Committee restated its vision of nuclear as essential in achieving decarbonization and its commitment to strengthening cooperation for a clean, reliable, and resilient energy future for those countries that decide to use nuclear power. The Committee expressed sincere appreciation to Kenya for offering to host next year's Executive Committee Meeting, the Steering Group Meeting, the Global Ministerial Conference on *Deploying Advanced Nuclear for a Green Energy Future*, and the Joint IFNEC/NEA Workshop on Mentoring. In closure, the Executive Committee invited countries interested in learning more about nuclear to participate in IFNEC's meetings and activities actively.