



The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation  
Joint Statement  
1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting  
King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center, Jordan  
November 4, 2010

The Executive Committee of the newly transformed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), now renamed as International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (“IFNEC”), held its first meeting at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center in the Dead Sea Area in Jordan on November 4, 2010.<sup>1</sup> Ministers and senior representatives from 44 countries addressed key issues facing the expanded use of peaceful nuclear energy through a review of the progress of the IFNEC Steering Group and two expert-based Working Groups since the GNEP Executive Committee meeting in Beijing in October 2009. The Executive Committee also agreed on specific areas on which to focus during the next year.

The Executive Committee welcomed two countries, Kuwait and Germany, to IFNEC as full Participants, expanding its composition to 27 Participant countries, 32 Observer countries and three Observer inter-governmental organizations.

The Executive Committee received a report from the Chair of the IFNEC Steering Group on the transformative changes adopted at the June 2010 Steering Group meeting in Accra, Ghana in order to provide a broader scope and engender wider international participation. This included adoption of the new name and a new Statement of Mission:

*The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation provides a forum for cooperation among participating states 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. Participating states would not give up any rights and voluntarily engage to share the effort and gain the benefits of economical, peaceful nuclear energy.*

In endorsing the adoption of the new name and the Statement of Mission, the Executive Committee emphasizes the important role of nuclear energy in meeting the world’s growing energy demand as well as its ability to provide sustainable energy security while reconfirming that ensuring safeguards, safety and security is a fundamental prerequisite for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Chair also presented a Steering Group Action Plan that the Executive Committee approved.

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<sup>1</sup> Three previous Ministerial-level meetings were held between 2007 and 2009 as the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

The Executive Committee received a status report from France and Japan as the new co-Chairs of the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (RNFSWG). The RNFSWG reported on its February 2010 meeting, at which a workshop on the role of nuclear industry in assuring nuclear fuel cycle services was held with the participation of representatives from governments, nongovernmental organizations and industry. The Executive Committee was also briefed on the RNFSWG's October 2010 meeting, during which a session on cradle-to-grave (CTG) nuclear fuel management was held in response to the Executive Committee's instruction in its October 2009 Joint Statement. Finally, the Working Group reported on the discussion of the important next steps needed to address implementation issues to achieve a workable comprehensive fuel services approach. The Executive Committee recognized the progress of the RNFSWG and reaffirmed the importance of comprehensive and reliable nuclear fuel services to IFNEC countries for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Executive Committee also received a report from the United Kingdom and United States, the co-Chairs of the Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG). The IDWG met in December 2009 and May 2010, during which workshops were held on nuclear energy financing, regulatory agency engagement and safety cooperation, and infrastructure needs for international nuclear fuel service frameworks. In the past year, the IDWG has been building its human resources exchange programs, further refining its human resources modeling tool, examining specific areas of interest in radioactive waste management, expanding its review of the potential use of small modular reactors, enhancing its on-line Resource Library and engaging with external entities that have expertise in areas of interest to the IDWG members. The IDWG reported that it will hold another Resources and Gaps Workshop on human resource development at its next meeting in December 2010. In addition, it will continue work in the areas of radioactive waste management, small modular reactors, financing for nuclear power, infrastructure needs for international nuclear fuel service frameworks and regulator engagement. The Executive Committee recognized the progress of the IDWG and directed it to continue sharing lessons learned and promoting best practices to support the IFNEC countries in developing human resources, financing mechanisms and other infrastructure necessary for the safe and secure deployment and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The Executive Committee also reviewed and approved the two Working Groups' proposal to hold a joint meeting in the first half of 2011 that would examine further and discuss the issue of comprehensive nuclear fuel services and approaches relevant to international cooperation, including CTG fuel management from both infrastructure and nuclear fuel service perspectives.

During its discussions the Executive Committee affirmed that:

- (1) IFNEC actively supports the further development of multilateral/multinational commercially-based fuel cycle mechanisms, especially for the support of international nuclear fuel markets to ensure reliability of fuel supply (stability, security and continuity) and services for responsible used fuel management with the use of the appropriate fuel cycle technologies especially for the support of international nuclear fuel markets. These supplies and services should be provided without prejudice to the right of participating states to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with their obligations under the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

- (2) In particular, IFNEC recognizes that assurances of fuel supply and a comprehensive and responsible used nuclear fuel management scheme, including CTG, can be an important element of civil nuclear energy cooperation that could facilitate the expanded access to peaceful nuclear power in a manner consistent with the NPT in order to achieve the envisaged consistent development of peaceful nuclear energy around the world. IFNEC recognizes also the importance of promoting and supporting active cooperation to help IFNEC countries to plan and implement waste and spent fuel management solutions including regional approaches as appropriate.
- (3) IFNEC actively supports the development of infrastructure in countries employing the civilian use of nuclear power, in particular those newly introducing or expanding such use, through the sharing of information, knowledge, and lessons learned from past experience based on their concrete needs. This includes identification of requirements, provisions for education and training, development and maintenance of legal and regulatory frameworks, and establishment and continuance of effective national institutions for safe and secure operation of nuclear power plants over their entire life cycles, in accordance with the obligations of the relevant international conventions.
- (4) IFNEC recognizes that nuclear energy is competitive but has very specific financial features which entail uncertainty. To overcome this uncertainty, investors require a stable and transparent legal and regulatory environment, financing solutions to distribute risk, and consideration of measures for strengthening international efforts to assure competition on a fair trade basis, while ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security. In this context, IFNEC recognizes that multilateral development banks could have a role in addressing these issues for nuclear power-related projects.
- (5) IFNEC also recognizes the important role of nuclear energy in addressing climate change, since nuclear power is capable of providing large-scale base-load energy with negligible carbon emissions and could have specific benefits for both developing and developed countries through developing low-carbon emission projects.
- (6) The IFNEC Working Groups intend to widely disseminate the outcomes of their activities by distributing IDWG and RNFSWG position papers, meeting highlights, workshop summaries, and any appropriate syntheses on topics within their scope of work while positively cooperating with international organizations and frameworks such as the IAEA and Generation IV International Forum. This will strengthen Participant countries' ability to make their own decisions regarding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the future while preserving their rights to have choices in this matter and enhance the benefit of IFNEC to the international community. The Executive Committee acknowledges the value of the IFNEC Resource Library as a means to allow for sharing of information between participant and observer countries and supports the limited sharing of Resource Library information with External Entities.

The Executive Committee has tasked the Steering Group to act accordingly and to appropriately delegate responsibility in furtherance of these affirmations to the two IFNEC Working Groups.