



The International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC)

Joint Statement

2nd Executive Committee Meeting

Warsaw, Poland

September 29th, 2011

IFNEC held its second Executive Committee Meeting (since its transition from the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership) in Warsaw, Poland on September 29th 2011.

Ministers and other senior representatives from 45 countries addressed key issues facing the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They recognised the continued role of nuclear as a sustainable low-carbon energy source in those countries with a desire to use the technology, and the added value that IFNEC can bring to ensure its use is carried out in an efficient, safe, secure and non-proliferation manner.

The Executive Committee welcomed Argentina, the Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates to IFNEC as full Participants, expanding its composition to 30 Participant countries and 31 Observer countries.

In light of the tragic consequences of the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March, 2011, the Executive Committee expressed its sincere condolences to the representatives of Japan for the loss of life and injuries sustained. In respect of the Fukushima accident, the Executive Committee:

- Affirms that the earthquake and tsunami in Japan demonstrated that nuclear safety and emergency preparedness and response for both existing and new nuclear facilities must continue to have high priority and should be enhanced.
- Emphasizes the important work being done by the IAEA and other international bodies on nuclear safety and the need to strengthen implementation of the international safety framework, including relevant international conventions, IAEA safety standards, recognizing at the same time that safety, licensing and regulatory issues are a primary responsibility of each State.
- Welcomes the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and other initiatives to improve nuclear safety worldwide, including initiatives taken by many countries to carry out comprehensive risk and safety assessments of their existing nuclear installations.
- Calls upon all IFNEC participants operating, commissioning, constructing or planning nuclear power plants, or considering a nuclear power programme, to become Parties to, or continue implementation of, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.
- Calls upon all IFNEC participants operating, commissioning, constructing or planning nuclear power plants, or considering a nuclear power programme, to work towards further establishing a global nuclear liability regime that addresses the concerns of all States that might be affected by a nuclear accident with a view to providing appropriate compensation for nuclear damage.

Noting that IFNEC provides a valuable forum for exchange of information and lessons learned among Governments, agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, and the commercial nuclear energy sector in the variety of activities necessary to support the safe and responsible use of nuclear energy, the Executive Committee:

- Expresses its support for international efforts in addressing nuclear safety issues and reinforcing the nuclear safety regime in light of the Fukushima accident.
- Affirms its commitment to enhanced information exchange among participants in developing a robust nuclear safety culture, complementing the efforts of the IAEA.

Steering Group Report

The IFNEC Steering Group Chair reported to the Executive Committee on progress made since the previous Executive Committee Meeting held in Jordan in November 2010. He described proposals relating to the financing of nuclear projects in response to Executive Committee direction, and presented an updated Action Plan.

Report of the Joint Meeting of the RNFSWG and the IDWG

The Executive Committee received a report on the joint meeting of the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group (RNFSWG) and the Infrastructure Development Working Group (IDWG) held in Paris in April 2011. The purpose of the joint meeting was to explore the opportunities and barriers to providing comprehensive fuel services (CFS), in particular to explore areas of concern in back-end management, such as relating to the role of interim spent fuel storage, shared multinational geological disposal facilities and the transportation of spent fuel and vitrified high level waste (HLW), and to understand the views of industry in this context.

IFNEC Participant and Observer countries, Observer organizations, industry and non-governmental organisations participated in the meeting. The Executive Committee noted the conclusions of the meeting:

- Global transport of spent fuel and HLW has been taking place for many years in a safe and secure manner;
- Successful long-term dry storage technologies are available, but that such storage is not a definitive end-point of the back end fuel cycle policy and should be seen as part of the full reactor life-cycle strategy;
- While technical progress has been achieved in implementing various backend fuel cycle approaches, there are significant challenges and sensitivities to face for the development and implementation of geological disposal facilities. Nevertheless, some national programs are progressing well (Finland, France, Sweden,...); and
- More work needs to be done with industry to better understand what industry could contribute to providing effective and comprehensive fuel cycle services.

In consideration of the above, the Executive Committee:

- Welcomes and supports the ongoing joint efforts of the two Working Groups to identify the conditions and practical steps that enable the development of comprehensive commercially-based international nuclear fuel services and help to build relationships between private sector service providers and key political decision makers.
- Encourages the working groups to continue to work together and to share experiences in the approach to support to CFS.
- Recognizes the importance of industry contributions and engagement as a key aspect of implementation of CFS.
- Recognizes the benefits and challenges of implementing multinational solutions (international storage/disposal or a storage/disposal facility shared between volunteer countries) to radioactive waste management, and acknowledges that there are a number of socio-political issues to address in order to achieve a “win-win” outcome for the host community (i.e., local or regional/state government) and implementer (i.e., utility or

government authority). Key issues to consider include long-term commitment and decision-making, identification of a potential host community, allocation of responsibilities, regulatory oversight, safety requirements for used fuel or for high level waste disposal, legal liability, waste ownership and financing.

- Directs both Working Groups to address the above issues in a dual track approach with national programs developed in parallel to multinational programs, and to report on progress at the next meeting.
- Specifically requests that a discussion paper on the benefits and issues regarding Comprehensive Fuel Services be prepared and brought to the next Executive Committee Meeting; this discussion paper should address the above issues, draft recommendations, and clarify the respective roles of industry and policy bodies. The working groups should consider other existing and ongoing studies that relate to this subject, such as studies carried out by IAEA's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO).

Report of the RNFSWG

The French and Japanese Co-Chairs of the RNFSWG reported on its April 2011 meeting, held in Paris. Kuwait described its nuclear roadmap and Sweden provided an account of its spent fuel and radioactive waste management policy, in particular the implementation of its geological disposal facility at Forsmark. The meeting also included a further Comprehensive Fuel Services (CFS) workshop with industry participation.

Poland and France co-led a sub working group on Resource Requirements and Fuel Supply and will prepare an action plan for the November 2011 meeting. This will include consideration of uranium resources and the development of a risk matrix to assess the effectiveness of security of supply. The sub-group on Approaches for Developing Back-End Fuel Cycle Options is preparing an overview document on current back-end practices and a document on "challenges, approaches and criteria for fuel back-end options" to be considered at its November meeting.

The CFS Workshop explored the feasibility of services and clarified the interrelation between industrial and institutional issues for final disposal. The workshop received a good impression of the industrial services available and recognised that flexibility was required in the provision of fuel services and concluded that back-end issues should be considered early in the development of a national nuclear energy program.

The Executive Committee:

- Recognizes the progress of the RNFSWG and directs it to prepare the action plan on resource requirements and on the assessment of the security of fuel supply and discuss the overview document of the current fuel back-end strategies, which should also cover consideration of tax levies; and
- Recognizes that the role of Industry in a public/private partnership in the implementation of comprehensive fuel cycle services needs further exploration.

Report of the IDWG

The Executive Committee received a report from the United Kingdom and United States Co-Chairs of the IDWG which had met in December 2010 in Rome and in April 2011 in Paris. The Radioactive Waste Management Sub-Group reported progress on several of its topic areas, including decommissioning and Joint Convention activities. Additional sessions were held on Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology progress and licensing issues, including an IAEA presentation on transportable nuclear reactors and a US study on SMR economics, and human resource development (HRD). Infrastructure readiness assessments in the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Kuwait were presented.

The HRD sessions focused on lessons learned from ten countries and the IAEA. The UK's implementation of its nuclear skills passport, and educational and industry staff exchanges, and examples of international distance learning were described. The HRD Modelling Tool

should be ready for full use by the IAEA with its Member States within the first half of 2012. Future HRD related tasks will continue to promote staff exchanges and the development of assistance programmes for emerging nuclear countries.

Future activities of the IDWG will include updating its Programme Plan, holding a workshop in Vienna on emergency preparedness and response in conjunction with the IAEA, and addressing issues for public-private partnership on multinational storage and disposal solutions for spent fuel and radioactive waste. The Radioactive Waste Management Sub-Group completed most of the tasks it had set out to do, and an update paper will be presented at the October/November 2011 meeting. Work will continue on to support of the RNFSWG CFS activity.

The Executive Committee:

- Recognizes the progress of the IDWG and directs 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, secure and safeguarded deployment and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
- Recalls its statement of November 2010 that nuclear energy is competitive but has very specific financial features which entail uncertainty.
- Recognizes that states engaged in a nuclear power program should be ready to allocate adequate financial resources to ensure that high and robust levels of nuclear safety, as well as security and safeguards, are in place.
- Also recognizes that the importance of developing sound financial and economic conditions to attract investment for new nuclear projects and decided to look at opportunities for exploring this further with appropriate financial institutions.
- Reconfirms that multilateral development banks could have an important role in addressing financing issues for nuclear power-related projects, which could include reactor, safety, and spent fuel and radioactive waste management projects and in connection with this further recognizes the importance of the World Bank in this area.
- Encourages the World Bank to undertake a study of the economics and financing of nuclear power. IFNEC stands ready to support and work with the World Bank as appropriate. The Executive Committee chairman will bring this statement to the attention of the World Bank's Board of Governors.
- Recognizes that to overcome financial risk and uncertainty, investors require a stable and transparent legal and regulatory environment, competitive 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.