TERMS OF REFERENCE

Global Nuclear Safety and Security Communication Network (GNSSCOM)

BACKGROUND

IAEA recognizes that many IAEA Member States and their stakeholders continue to face diverse communication challenges. Some of these challenges include: transparency, openness, public trust, risk perception, dissemination of safety and security information, message development and information clarity, stakeholder[1] engagement. To assist in this regard, the IAEA promotes the IAEA Fundamentals Safety Principles (IAEA Safety Standards No. SF-1) Principle 2: Role of Government states: *An effective legal and governmental framework for safety, including an independent regulatory body, must be established and sustained.* [3.10.] *The regulatory body must: Set up appropriate means of informing parties in the vicinity, the public and other interested parties, and the information media about the safety aspects (including health and environmental aspects) of facilities and activities and about regulatory processes; Consult parties in the vicinity, the public and other interested parties, as appropriate, in an open and inclusive process.*

Additionally, GC(59)/RES/9 1. Para 5 provides further encouragement to IAEA Member States to join relevant regional safety fora and networks (e.g., GNSSCOM), and to participate and work in cooperation with other members so that the benefits of membership can be fully realized.

Furthermore, communication issues and events surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi accident gave rise to the IAEA Action Plan and to the Report by the Director General on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident[2]. Specifically Action 12[3] addressed the issue of national regulatory bodies to enhance transparency and effectiveness of communication, and improve dissemination of information.[4,5] And various parts of the Fukushima report itself emphasized the importance of transparency, openness, public trust, and effective strategies to disseminate safety and security information.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The objective of GNSSCOM is to encourage Member State communication officers, from Regulatory bodies, Technical support organizations or other relevant organizations, to connect and collaborate in non-emergency [6] situations in order to improve communication effectiveness and building public trust. Members of GNSSCOM would further collaborate and focus on enhancing transparency and effectiveness of communication, and improving dissemination of information

This includes:

a) Sharing knowledge, expertise, lessons learned and best practices in communication;
b) Promoting capacity building in communications through networking activities;

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[1] Safety Glossary definition "stakeholder"

[2] See: Fukushima Daiichi Report

[3] See: IAEA Action Plan

[4] See: IEM Effective Regulators

[5] See: IEM Effective Communications

[6] Safety Glossary definition of "emergency"

c) Developing, implementing and evaluating strategies and processes for effective communication and consultation with stakeholders;

d) Providing access to communication professionals, tools, materials, resources, knowledge databases, and publications to further enhance competence in communications.

e) Dialoguing to establish close working relationships and work on communication related issues.

Scope of GNSSCOM:

GNSSCOM is intended to be a global information resource and its activities do not cover communication in a nuclear or radiological emergency.

GNSSNCOM activities are focused on nuclear safety and security communication during non-emergency situations by national regulatory authorities, their technical support organizations and relevant government organizations.

A website as part of the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) is maintained to share information and promote work within the GNSSCOM and the Steering Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to communication officers from IAEA Member State's national regulatory authorities, their technical support organizations and relevant government organizations.

All nominations for membership should be submitted to the IAEA secretariat via the respective Member State's permanent mission to the IAEA.

Each Member assumes its own costs in relation to GNSSCOM activities, whenever possible.

STEERING COMMITTEE

GNSSCOM is led by a Steering Committee for the development and sustainability of the network and its Terms of Reference. The Steering Committee comprises a maximum of 12 members. Nominated Steering Committee members are appointed for a period of three years subject to extension or renewal as required.

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year. In the event that a member cannot attend, the network member or Member State should provide an alternate. The Steering Committee is expected to establish, review and update a work plan at least annually. If needed, the Steering Committee may establish working groups to deal with specific tasks.

The results of GNSSCOM activities are evaluated by the Steering Committee in cooperation with the Secretariat, and fed back to the Steering Committee for continuous improvement.

The Steering Committee reports annually on GNSSCOM activities and progress, and may submit recommendations to the IAEA Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. The report shall be made available on the GNSSCOM website.

A Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson are recommended and appointed, by consensus, by the Steering Committee for a three-year period. The Chairperson chairs the Steering Committee.

SECRETARIAT

Subject to the availability of resources, the IAEA Secretariat may facilitate and support the activities of GNSSCOM and its Steering Committee by:

a) Maintaining the list of GNSSCOM Members;
b) Maintaining the list of Steering Committee members and informs the Committee and their Member States two months prior to a lapse in committee membership;
c) Maintaining the list of GNSSCOM members and their contact information;
d) Coordinating GNSSCOM meetings as required and keep and maintain records;
e) Developing and Maintaining the GNSSCOM website;
f) Providing members with website access;
g) Facilitating interaction with other networks and advisory groups on relevant topics as appropriate;
h) Informing the Steering Committee on communication challenges in Member States and propose activities to address them as they arise;
i) Providing a calendar of the GNSSCOM activities and, as appropriate, other relevant events.