

Terms of Reference

The Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators

Introduction

WE, the representatives of the Nuclear and Radiation Regulatory Bodies in Arab countries, meeting on 20- 22 January 2010 in Hammamet, Tunisia;

1. *Recognizing* the need for coherence and integration in the nuclear regulatory framework has become an increasingly important issue in both developed and developing countries;
2. *Recognizing* that a more integrated policy framework is necessary to promote transparent, consistent and coherent nuclear regulation;
3. *Recognizing* that the nuclear regulatory framework includes nuclear safety, security and safeguards; radiation safety, waste management and transport safety;
4. *Recognizing* the potential expansion of the application of nuclear technology, including nuclear power energy and the increase in demand for its use as an alternative source of energy whilst preventing its harmful effects;
5. *Recognizing* the importance of adherence to nuclear safety and security international binding and non-binding legal instruments;
6. *Recognizing* the mutual interest in continuing cooperation and exchange of information on good regulatory practices;
7. *Respecting* the principles of sovereignty, equality, mutual benefit, territorial integrity, and non-intervention in respective domestic affairs;
8. *Welcoming* the desire to foster cooperation of nuclear regulatory bodies in Arab countries for the attainment of the above principles;
9. *Acknowledging* the importance of technical assistance and cooperation with supporting organizations and countries (the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS), USNRC, European commission, etc.)
10. *Do Hereby* recommend the Terms of Reference to establish the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR) in Arab countries

Article 1: Name

A regional network to be known as the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR) (hereinafter referred to as “ANNuR”) is hereby declared.

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of ANNuR is to foster enhancement, strengthening and harmonization of the regulatory infrastructure and framework among ANNuR members; and to provide for mechanisms for the ANNuR to be an effective and efficient internationally recognized network for the exchange of regulatory experiences and practices among the radiation and nuclear regulatory bodies in Arab countries.

Article 3: Objectives

The objectives of ANNuR are to:

1. Provide a platform for fostering regional cooperation in the area of regulatory infrastructure
2. Provide for the exchange of expertise, information and experience;
3. Provide opportunity for mutual support and coordination of regional initiatives;
4. Provide for the establishment of a regional and national capacity building framework

Article 4: Membership

Membership of ANNuR shall be open to all national nuclear regulatory bodies in all Arab countries on a voluntary basis.

ANNuR members shall be a senior officials representing the regulatory bodies in member states as well as representatives from AAEA.

Organs of the ANNuR

The ANNuR shall function through the following organs:

- 1) The Plenary will discuss and report on the ANNuR strategic action plan. The Plenary shall be organized in Vienna in connection with the IAEA General conference. The Head of delegations or regulatory authorities are encouraged to attend the plenary meeting.
- 2) The Steering Committee chairperson will be appointed for two years rotating mandate. The chairperson will be elected by consensus according to the Arabic alphabetic order and will lead activities and act as spokesperson of ANNuR.
- 3) The Thematic working group coordinators shall ensure the coordination of the activities carried out within the groups and report to the steering committee on

the achievements. They shall send an annual report to the Steering Committee no later than 1 February.

- 4) Thematic working groups members shall be officially nominated by ANNuR Member States
- 5) A secretariat for the Steering committee will be carried out by the Arab Atomic Energy Agency
- 6) The IAEA will act as a secretariat for the working groups and will cooperate closely with the AAEA

Steering committee

A steering committee shall be established to ensure transparency, openness, efficient and effective planning and implementation of ANNuR activities. The Steering Committee will make all ANNuR policy decisions by consensus and:

- a. will review and update the Terms of Reference periodically;
- b. will review and approve the ANNuR annual Work-plan
- c. will request a member state to nominate a coordinator the each topical group and will request member states to nominate 1 or 2 members for each thematic working group
- f. will report to the plenary on the action plan and the results achieved and assess the impact of the project developed within the ANNuR framework.

Thematic Working Groups

The thematic working groups need to be established according to the regional need and priorities. Every thematic working group shall develop a Term of Reference and submit it to the SC for approval.

1. capacity building: knowledge management, Education and Training, HRD and knowledge networks for regulatory bodies

The role of Working Group on capacity building is to contribute to the promotion and development of cooperation and collaboration in knowledge management, Education and Training, HRD and knowledge networks for regulatory bodies among ANNuR member states. The tasks of this WG are to:

- Identify process and methodologies For ANNuR member to use a systematic approach for the analysis of training needs, design of training programmes and

implementation of training to support human resource development and capacity building,

-facilitate cooperation and collaboration in the evaluation of training programmes and technical and scientific support activities in order to identify and reduce gaps

-Facilitate sharing of training course materials between all ANNuR members

2. . Governmental and Regulatory Infrastructure

The role of Working Group on Governmental and Regulatory Infrastructure is:

- to identify opportunities for meaningful sharing of information and experience to improve the effectiveness of the Governmental and Regulatory Infrastructure among Arab states and
- Foster member's efforts in the establishing and maintaining an infrastructure that implements all related international recognised standards and conventions

The tasks of this WG are to:

- List all related nuclear laws and regulations in force in ANNuR member states and facilitate exchange of materials and identify similarities and differences among legal, governmental and regulatory systems
- Draft modal legal provisions related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy

3. Emergency preparedness and response

The role of Working Group is:

- To identify and share best practices for national Emergency Preparedness and response (EPR) strategies
- To identify EPR needs and strategic EPR programmes
- To serve as a forum for information exchange
- To plan and to provide EPR training courses
- To assist through national and international level exercises

4. Radioactive waste management and disposal of spent fuel

The role of Working Group is:

- To identify and share best practices for safety of national radioactive waste management strategies

- To establish usable support system and database for safety of national radioactive waste management strategies
- To assist to join and meet national obligations of the Joint Convention
- To serve as a forum for information exchange and to provide training course

5. Safety, Security and safeguards

The role of Working Group is:

- To enhance co-operation, share the best practices and lessons learnt in the area of Nuclear Safety, security and safeguard and the implementation of effective management systems among the member countries in the region

6. Information technology

The role of Working Group is:

- To define a concept of a dynamic and interactive IT network supporting the ANNuR annual Work Plan
- establishing pool of qualified experts in and for ANNUR region
- expanding and strengthening the IT Network

7. Safety Management of Research Reactors

The role of Working Group is:

- To identify and share best practices for safety design, construction, operation (including ageing management), modification and decommissioning of Research Reactors as well as to be a source of expertise in these matters
- To promote the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research reactors and the application of IAEA Safety Standards
- To enhance the peer review process in the area of Integrated Safety Evaluation, promoting the establishment by participating Member States of self assessment reports on the safety of research reactors, evaluating the results and providing recommendations for further improvement
- To promote the mutual exchange of information through ANNUR and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on the safety of research reactors
- To promote the mutual cooperation between participating member States in the safety operation of Research Reactors

8. Transport of radioactive materials

The role of Working Group is:

- To enhance the peer review process of the Transport Regulatory Infrastructure in ANNuR member states
- - To promote mutual exchange information on import export and transit requirements of radioactive material between ANNuR member states
- To identify and share experience on the implementation of the requirements of IAEA/SSR6 as well as the requirements of the UN Orange Book and the modal regulations
- To promote cooperation between competent authorities for transport of radioactive materials ANNuR member states

Resources

Resources for the activities of ANNuR may be from the following sources:

1. IAEA
2. Arab Atomic Energy Agency
3. International organizations and Regional Organizations and Member States.

Working Mechanism

- The Plenary shall meet once a year
- The Steering shall meet at least once a year in November
- Additional management meetings could be organized upon request from the Steering committee and its chairman if necessary

The AAEA will circulate this draft by latest 6 March 2015.

The deadline to submit comments is the 31 March 2015. If no comments are received, the gathering member states declare this Term of Reference as adopted.