Terms of Reference

The Steering Committee (SC) on

the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN)

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Introduction

The Global Nuclear Safety and Security Framework (GNSSF) is the global framework for achieving and maintaining worldwide a high level of safety and security at nuclear facilities and activities. National efforts are and should be augmented by the activities of a variety of international enterprises that facilitate safety and security: intergovernmental organizations, multinational networks among operators, multinational networks among regulators, the nuclear industry, multinational networks among scientists, international standards setting organizations and other stakeholders such as the public, news media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are engaged in nuclear safety.

The IAEA standard GS-R-3 requires that information and knowledge is managed as a resource. The Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) is one of the elements of the GNSSF, related to the sharing of information and knowledge among the global expert community. The promotion of global sharing of safety and security information and of knowledge, is most important for the effectiveness of nuclear safety and security framework.

Networking has been recognized by Member States as a very effective instrument for enhancing the sharing of knowledge and experience essential to the implementation of appropriate safety and security measures. Networking has been also understood as an important tool for facilitating the transition from dependence to self-sufficiency and sustainability. GNSSN is an inclusive concept that brings together, links and complements all existing networks and initiatives.

As the worldwide centre of cooperation in the nuclear and radiation field, the IAEA works with States, international organizations and other partners, to promote the use of safe and secure nuclear applications for peaceful purposes. For this reason, the IAEA is ideally positioned to facilitate and support the establishment of information networks like GNSSN aimed at enhancing regulatory bodies' activities and regulations regarding safety and security. The IAEA will continue to support the development of focused networks with the goal of improving cooperation, fostering an integrated safety and security approach, and promoting continuous improvement and coordination for establishing platforms and networks as tools for exchanging information.

The purpose of this document is to define the function, membership, working methods, and resources of the SC on GNSSN.

Functions

The Steering Committee (SC) on the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) is a standing body of senior governmental officials holding national responsibilities for international cooperation relevant to nuclear safety and security.

The functions of the SC are:

- To provide guidance on the approach and strategy for GNSSN;

- To provide a forum for the exchange of information on on-going work or for planned network-related activities;
- To ensure that the infrastructure provided by the IAEA maintains its role as a worldwide forum for sharing existing and new nuclear safety and security knowledge;
- To guide the development of capacity building among the participating countries;
- To strengthen shared ownership and commitment of nuclear safety and security knowledge from all participating countries to GNSSN;
- To review the progress of planned activities and approve proposed activities;
- To respond to important current and emerging safety or security issues, to identify necessary actions to be taken, and to determine the need for additional exchange of information and/or regional efforts, including emergency preparedness and response;
- To establish working groups to address emerging safety or security issues;
- To undertake periodic evaluations of the progress of GNSSN;
- To approve the membership of organizations and networks;
- To promote closer cooperation and coordination with other international bodies, organizations and networks; and
- To establish policy regarding data and information security.

Membership

- The SC shall have at least 11 and no more than 17 members, including Chairperson and vice-Chairperson.
- The Deputy Director General, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, will seek to ensure a balance of regional approaches and experience in the areas covered by the GNSSN. He will request Member States to nominate senior regulatory officials holding responsibilities in nuclear safety and/or security with recognized expertise in nuclear knowledge management as SC members.
- The Deputy Director General will appoint the members of the SC for a term of 2 years.
- The chairperson of the SC is recommended and appointed by the SC, and will serve for a term of 2 years.
- In addition to the SC members, the chairs of the Working Groups for the thematic technical subjects may be invited to participate in the SC meetings, if requested by the SC.
- Representatives of regional networks or international organizations may participate in SC meetings as observers.

Working Methods

- Generally, the SC will meet twice a year.
- The SC will be convened by its chairperson through notifications to be issued by the scientific Secretary.
- If necessary, working groups on specific issues will be established.
- Decisions are made by consensus.
- Meetings will be conducted in English.

Resources

- The secretariat will provide all the resources necessary to permit the efficient working of the SC.

- A Scientific Secretary to serve the SC will be designated by IAEA.
- All costs involved in the participation of each SC member will be borne by the nominating Member States. Should need arise, however, the IAEA might provide some financial assistance, subject to the availability of funds and upon official request from the Member State.