Meeting Summary

Coordination Meeting – Regional and Thematic Networks under GNSSN and IAEA

23 June 2022 (Virtual format)

Attendees:

Mr. Alfredo de los Reyes Castelo (Spain), GNSSN Chair
Ms. Sneve Malgorzata (Norway), EuCAS Chair
Mr. Moonsamy Gino (South Africa), GNSSCOM Chair
Mr. Kubota Michio (Japan), ANSN Chair
Mr. Sabah Hassan Al-Hussaini (Iraq), ANNuR Chair
Mr. Rosbell Bosch (Cuba), FORO Coordinator
Mr. Mallick Shahid (IAEA) Director-NSOC
Mr. Guo Lingquan (IAEA) SH-NMPS
Mr. Bracke Guido (IAEA)
Mr. Kunjeer Sameer (IAEA)
Mr. Jung Raeyoung (IAEA)
Ms. Kateryna Pavlova (IAEA)
Ms. Kochkarova Dilya (IAEA)
Mr. Zoran Tesanovic (EuCAS representative)
Mr. Bakhtiyor Barotov (EuCAS representative)
Mr. Ilhom Mirsaidzoda (EuCAS representative)

IAEA: Coordination meeting among the GNSS...
Opening Session:

Mr. Shahid Mallick, Director NS-NSOC, IAEA, outlined the achievements of the associated regional and thematic networks of the GNSSN over the last decade; specifically emphasizing the recent cross-regional activities between ANSN and other regional networks such as ANNuR and FNRBA initiated since 2015. Mr. Mallick also recalled the discussions during the 17th GNSSN SC meeting, which focussed on enhancing this cross-regional and thematic network cooperation and confided that in the upcoming GNSSN SC meeting in July 2022, tangible actions would be planned. He also encouraged the regional and thematic network representatives to use the opportunity during this meeting to brainstorm on this aspect. To support these discussions, Mr. Mallick also proposed certain ideas as outlined below:

a. **Joint activities among regional networks** on specific topics pertinent to nuclear safety and security;
b. **Joint technical projects related to specific challenges** in a particular region;
c. **Joint publications or joint technical reports capturing specific experiences and good practices** on specific technical areas;
d. **Translation of existing publications** of a certain regional or thematic network, which might be beneficial for other associated networks;
e. **Joint meetings among networks** (one network hosting another network activities); this can be done not very frequently but once in every 2-3 years – depending on availability of funds;
f. **promote visibility of networks**.

Mr. Mallick also expressed full support of the Secretariat to further enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the associated networks in close cooperation and consultation with the regional and thematic network representatives.

Discussions:

- Mr. Alfredo, Chair of GNSSN mentioned that the GNSSN would be in a position to foster further cooperation, interaction and exchange of good practices and experiences among the regional and thematic networks. Same has been reflected in the GNSSN Strategic Plan, formulated by the new GNSSN Steering Committee in 2020-2021. Hence participation of regional and thematic network representatives will be encouraged in all future GNSSN SC meetings.
  
  Mr. Alfredo also endorsed the ideas proposed by the Secretariat to conduct cross-regional activities. Furthermore, he proposed that it would also be helpful for the networks to know how each of the networks are organized internally and how results are produced by respective networks; this would facilitate to adopt good practices.

  It was also proposed that key achievements and results of regional and thematic networks should be shared through the GNSSN among the international community to enhance visibility of the networks. As an example, Mr. Alfredo briefed on the organisation of FORO and how results were produced within FORO and how some of them were published in close cooperation with IAEA.

- Ms. Malgorzata Sneve, Chair of EuCAS network highlighted that different Member States in the regional networks might have different levels of development as well as
different experiences in topics of nuclear safety and security. However, it would be helpful to understand how the networks are interacting with its Member States which have such different levels of development. For example: as a starting point, it would be interesting to conduct joint workshops/webinars on topics such as “how regulatory documents” are developed and shared by Member States within a particular network. It would also be interesting to look at other regional networks experiences on how they commit their Member States to their network activities.

- Mr. Guo Lingquan, SH-NMPS, IAEA suggested to redesign the survey based on outcomes of this meeting and circulate it among the network chairs for their responses. The participants agreed to this approach and proposed to incorporate questions pertinent to structure and operational aspects of the network in the survey. This would facilitate to understand respective network operations.

- Mr. Alfredo, on behalf of FORO outlined the way FORO conceptualises and implements technical projects specific to certain challenges in one of its 10 Member States and/or in the region. Taking this opportunity, he highlighted the unique characteristic of FORO – the manner in which its activities were self-financed. He also emphasized the close cooperation with IAEA Technical Officers during implementation of FORO’s technical projects. Mr. Alfredo also mentioned that FORO has till date completed 14 technical projects and corresponding summary reports of these projects are available. At the same time, there are another 7 FORO projects underway.

- Ms. Malgorzata Sneve, (Norway), Chair of the EuCAS network, briefed on the structure and operations of EuCAS; mentioning that is was a fairly new network catering to Central Asian and European Member States. EuCAS has representation from 23 Member States; each of these Member States have different levels of regulatory bodies. EuCAS also has 4 different thematic groups focussing on a) regulatory infrastructure; b) waste management and spent fuel management; c) environmental remediation and decommissioning; d) education and training. Ms. Sneve also outlined the current focus and urgent issues of EuCAS which are of interest to EuCAS members. EuCAS is also considering to formulate a new thematic working group for EPR. The working methods of EuCAS focus on interactions, dialogue and learning from each other through study visits in EuCAS Member States. For example: study visits to Bulgaria focused on old type storage and disposal facilities; study visits in Czech Republic focussed on uranium legacy sites, etc. EuCAS does not produce any specific technical reports for these visits; however minutes of these study visits are drafted and additionally documents are shared by the host countries regarding their facilities. One activity which has been very well documented is the workshop for legacy sites conducted in Norway by the IAEA. This can be shared with other regional networks, as needed. EuCAS also invite members of IAEA TSO Forum to participate in EuCAS meeting as some of its Member States are considering to develop their TSO capabilities. EuCAS also looks to cooperate with other regional and thematic networks in areas of education and training – as there are more commonalities in this topic, for example: understanding of application of IAEA Safety Standards in developing regulatory systems.

- Mr. Gino Moonsamy, (South Africa), Chair of GNSSCOM, highlighted the importance and essentiality of the GNSSCOM; considering the pandemic and prevailing geopolitical situation. He also emphasized the changing ecosystem in technology and
communication landscape such as introduction of social media has posed certain challenges, which also presents new opportunities. Considering this, Mr. Gino affirmed that the GNSSCOM has a vital and complementary role to play with other regional networks in the near future. The GNSSCOM is still establishing its structure and operations and the slowdown since inception can be attributed to the disruptions caused by the pandemic. GNSSCOM is represented by established nuclear countries as well as emerging nuclear countries. GNSSCOM has developed its ToR and it is expected to evolve over time considering the experiences of other regional networks. GNSSCOM has conducted feedback surveys in 2020-2021 to understand the Member States needs for communication in non-emergency situations. Based on the results of the survey, GNSSCOM developed a 6-part Webinar “How to series”, on topics relevant for effective communication. Post this series, another survey was conducted and the feedback received from this survey is to continue with virtual workshops if the pandemic doesn’t permit to meet in person. However, there was a strong inclination of Member States to meet face to face. One of a strong recommendation from GNSSCOM SC members is that other networks can involve GNSSCOM in training workshops/regional workshops during their annual meetings. GNSSCOM is keen to learn from other networks and also get involved in delivering communication workshops to regional networks. Finally, Mr. Gino emphasized the need to raise the visibility of GNSSCOM among IAEA Member States for which GNSSCOM will develop a strategy. GNSSCOM also relies on IAEA to facilitate the promotion of this young network. The IAEA Secretariat suggested that support from thematic networks such as GNSSCOM and TSOF to the regional networks should be organised in a more systematic manner.

Mr. Gino suggested several options to promote the visibility of GNSSCOM as well as other regional and thematic networks. One of the approach would be to devise a broader strategy (synergistic and profiling) for communication or promoting visibility of networks and then have sub-strategies for individual networks; considering the overlapping objectives of networks. Also practical actions based on these strategies should be developed by individual networks.

- Mr. Sabah Hassan Al-Hussaini (Iraq), Chair of ANNuR network, highlighted the objective of ANNuR to share experiences on developing and strengthening regulatory infrastructures among ANNuR Member States. During the recent ANNuR SC meeting in March 2022, ANNuR reorganised its thematic working groups. So effectively ANNuR will have 8 thematic working groups and a new strategic vision for 2022-2025 is also under development. ANNuR expects support from IAEA and GNSSN in specific areas such as a) Capacity Building; b) Implementation and Activation of Early Warning System in ANNuR Member States; c) Strengthening of Regulatory and Radiation Safety infrastructure under the regional project RAF 9096. Mr. Sabah also emphasized the need to activate the newly formulated ANNuR thematic working groups to achieve the objectives of the network, as there was considerable slowdown during the last 2 years; owing to the pandemic.

- Mr. Rosbell Bosch, (Cuba), FORO Coordinator, emphasized that to enhance visibility if is important to achieve results and FORO works on this basis and is reflected in completion of its 14 technical projects. FORO has defined 5 strategic challenges and formulated 15 thematic areas to achieve the goals of FORO. FORO can share with other networks summary of results of its 14 completed technical projects and
individual networks can consider implementation of any of these projects in their region. FORO is also considering to encourage experts from other regions for their future technical projects; subjected to financial constraints and language barrier (as FORO operates in Spanish). FORO also considers GNSSN as main bridge for cooperation with other regional networks and associations. Hence it would rely on the GNSSN to provide support for translation of some of its publications; depending on interest from the regional networks. Some of the focus technical areas of FORO for future technical projects are related to: a) Nuclear Security for Domestic Transport; b) Decommissioning of facilities; c) Safety Culture programme; d) Nuclear Knowledge Management. FORO expects to receive support and cooperation from other regional networks on these focus areas.

- Mr. Michio Kubota, (Japan), Chair of ANSN, provided a background of ANSN since its inception in 2002. ANSN conducts seminars, workshops, training courses to support and enhance capacity building in Member States to enhance nuclear safety infrastructures. Annually 20+ activities are conducted under the ANSN framework. Most of the ANSN Member States were in Phase 1 of their NPP; however, the situation has changed for some of its Member States. Based on this changes, ANSN should consider to close the gaps between actual needs of ANSN Member States and implementation of activities. The interest of ANSN Member States is now shifting to research reactors, radiation safety and protection, transport safety of radioactive material, waste management and EPR. Mr. Kubota also mentioned that ANSN is considering to publish its first technical report on “ANSN self-assessment practice”

Closing Session:

- Mr. Alfredo thanked all participants and suggested to redesign the survey (originally designed and circulated in 2021) to capture existing organisation/structure of networks, future interests or focus areas of regional and thematic networks.
- Mr. Alfredo also proposed the IAEA Secretariat a possibility to convene again with the regional and thematic network representatives on the side-lines of the GNSSN Plenary in Sep 2022.
- Mr. Shahid Mallick, IAEA, highlighted four key outcomes from the meeting:
  - It is well understood that the thematic networks are supporting the regional networks (TSOF supporting EuCAS, GNSSCOM offering to support regional networks). Such activities can be organised in a more systematic manner by incorporating them in the GNSSN annual workplan.
  - Regional and thematic networks should consider to present their achievements/results of activities in IAEA event such as Conferences or Technical Meetings. This would promote the visibility of networks – as considerable progress is achieved in some of the networks.
  - GNSSCOM can consider to promote gender equality in nuclear sector by conducting Webinar as part of its series.
  - Identify common needs among the regional networks (for example: environmental remediation and decommissioning can be a topic of interest across networks)
- Mr. Alfredo emphasized that the GNSSN can serve as a platform to achieve the above mentioned four outcomes in close cooperation with the IAEA Secretariat.
- Results of this coordination meeting would be presented to the upcoming GNSSN Steering Committee Meeting in July 2022.

**Actions identified:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Timelines</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Design survey to capture focus areas and future interests of regional networks. This would facilitate to identify common needs across networks</td>
<td>IAEA Secretariat, GNSSN</td>
<td>Sep 2022</td>
<td>A survey was already conducted in 2021. The questions from this survey can be redesigned to capture details such as structure of individual regional networks. In addition to this the survey should also capture specific technical focus areas of regional networks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Enhance visibility of achievements and results of regional and thematic networks</td>
<td>IAEA Secretariat, GNSSN, Regional and Thematic Networks</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Regional and Thematic Networks should share key results and main achievements of their activities with IAEA Secretariat on a quarterly basis. IAEA Secretariat would publish these results and achievements in the GNSSN newsletter and disseminate to the registered global community. Same would be made available in the public area of the GNSSN website. Key results and achievements of the regional and thematic networks can be presented in important IAEA Conferences, Technical Meetings, Symposium and other relevant platforms. IAEA to support GNSSN and other regional and thematic networks in this aspect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Support from thematic networks such as the TSO and GNSSCOM to regional networks should be organised in a systematic manner</td>
<td>IAEA, GNSSN, Regional and Thematic Networks</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Specific support activities from the thematic networks such as TSO and GNSSCOM for regional networks can be identified and incorporated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Regional networks should invite thematic networks to present an overview of achievements of thematic networks. Thematic networks in turn can consider to design support activities based on specific needs of the regional networks.

| 4. | Translation of publications from FORO; depending on interest from other regional and thematic networks | IAEA Secretariat, GNSSN | 2022-2023 | IAEA Secretariat in close cooperation with GNSSN and its associated networks identify specific FORO publications which are of mutual interest and consider translation of these publications in specific IAEA official languages. |
| 5. | Promotion of gender equality through the regional and thematic networks | IAEA Secretariat, GNSSCOM | 2022-2023 | GNSSCOM can consider to design a Webinar promoting gender equality in the nuclear sector. This Webinar can be made available to GNSSN and its associated networks. |
Thursday, 23 June 2022

10.00-10:10
- Opening Session
  - Opening remarks by IAEA, Mr. Shahid Mallick, Director, NS-NSOC
  - Introduction of participants
  - Group picture

10.10-11.10
- Remarks from the regional and thematic networks under GNSSN:
  (The remarks should focus on the following topics for brainstorming:
   2. Potential opportunities to enhance cooperation among networks.
   3. We may discuss on joint activities among networks, joint reports, joint projects and sustainability.
   4. Any additional support expected from IAEA to promote the network and their respective activities.)
  - Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN)
    o Mr. Alfredo de los Reyes (Spain)
  - Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN)
    o Mr. Michio Kubota (Japan)
  - Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA)
    o Mr. Idris Yau (Nigeria)
  - Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR)
    o Mr. Sabah Hassan Al-hssini (Iraq), Mr. Mosbah Daw (AAEA)
  - European and Central Asian Safety Network (EuCAS)
    o Ms. Malgorzata Sneve (Norway)
  - Technical and Scientific Organization Forum (TSOF)
    o Mr. Michel Van Haesendonck (Belgium), Ms. Carla Eibl-Schwäger (Germany)
  - Global Nuclear Safety and Security Communication Network (GNSSCOM)
    o Mr. Gino Moonsamy (South Africa)
  - Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Bodies (FORO)
    o Mr. Rosbell Bosch (Cuba)

11.10-11.45
- Discussions among network representatives to foster further cooperation among networks, considering current challenges and past achievements of individual regional and thematic networks
  (This session would facilitate to comprehend the common needs among Member States participating in various regional and thematic networks and conceptualize potential ideas for common projects)

11.45-12.00
- Summary and conclusions