

Terms of Reference

THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY NETWORK

Background

The launching of the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) was formally announced at the International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems: Facing Safety and Security Challenges, held in Moscow, Russian Federation, in 2006. It was a step which took into consideration the recommendations contained in the International Nuclear Safety Group (INSAG) report *Strengthening the Global Nuclear Safety Regime* (INSAG Series No. 21, IAEA, Vienna, 2006) and in the IAEA Safety Standards GS-R-3. The initial development of the GNSSN was carried out jointly by IAEA and the G8 Nuclear Safety and Security Group in 2007 and since then it has evolved into a strong human and information technology (IT) platform combining global nuclear safety forums and networks, regional safety networks and national safety portals.

One of the main functions of the Agency is *“To foster the exchange of scientific and technical information on peaceful uses of atomic energy”* (IAEA Statutes, ARTICLE III, para. 3). ARTICLE VIII states that the Agency *“shall take positive steps to encourage the exchange among its members of information relating to the nature and peaceful uses of atomic energy and shall serve as an intermediary among its members for this purpose”*.

The GNSSN is supporting the IAEA’s Nuclear Safety and Security Programme (Major Programme 3) which covers one of the IAEA’s essential statutory functions. In line with the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the GNSSN, as a knowledge network, is part of an integrated IAEA methodology for capacity building and contributes to enhancing international cooperation and dialogue in the field of nuclear safety and security.

Vision

The GNSSN is the gateway to sharing knowledge and services in order to achieve worldwide implementation of a high level of nuclear safety and security.

Mission

To attain this vision, the GNSSN’s mission is threefold:

- (1) Sharing information and knowledge** – Ensuring that relevant knowledge, experience and lessons learned related to nuclear safety and security are managed and shared for the benefit of Member States.

- (2) **Facilitate multilateral cooperation and coordination** – Enabling and supporting collaboration and interaction between organizations and subject matter experts
- (3) **Building Capacity** – Establish a capacity building framework to support the national nuclear safety and security infrastructure in the Member States

Objectives

The objectives of the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network encompass three levels: global, regional and national.

Global objectives:

- i) To create a comprehensive and robust framework for coordination and harmonization of global strategies and policies pertaining to nuclear safety and security, by building strategic partnerships and linkage between regional and thematic networks, governmental entities, such as regulatory authorities, ministries, and other nuclear safety and security related organizations;
- ii) To establish a global framework for capacity building in nuclear safety, radiation safety, waste and transport safety; as well as a global framework for education and training
- iii) To contribute to the sharing of information and knowledge with regional and national networks, making it visible and available

Regional objectives:

- i) To establish and maintain strong forums and regional networks for discussing regional strategies and policies and achieving a high level of nuclear safety and security;
- ii) To support the development of regional platforms for sharing technical knowledge and enhancing competence in nuclear safety and security;
- iii) To support the development of IT platforms for efficient collaboration in nuclear safety and security
- iv) To contribute to the sharing of information and knowledge with national and global networks, making it visible and available.

National objectives:

- i) To harmonize the national approaches to the nuclear safety and security knowledge management;
- ii) To establish a national framework for capacity building at governmental, organizational and individual level;
- iii) To improve practices and management systems for facilities and activities
- iv) To contribute to the sharing of information and knowledge with regional and global networks, making it visible and available.

Structure

GNSSN Steering committee

The Steering Committee (SC) on the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) is a standing body of suitably qualified persons holding responsibilities in nuclear safety and/or security with recognized expertise in regulatory matters and nuclear knowledge management. The GNSSN Steering Committee Terms of Reference as agreed in April 2012 provides further details (to be updated).

GNSSN Governance Board

The GNSSN Governance Board provides insight and direction for the operational aspect of the GNSSN platform. The GNSSN Governance Board constitutes of:

- GNSSN Executive
- GNSSN Advisory Group
- GNSSN Coordinators
- GNSSN Moderators (upon request)
- GNSSN Assistants

Further details are outlined in the IAEA Strategic Approach on the GNSSN.

GNSSN Secretariat

The IAEA will provide technical and administrative support to the GNSSN, including the IT platform upon which the GNSSN is predominantly based.

The Participation

Member States

- All IAEA Member States are encouraged to be active participants and contributors

Organizations

- International, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations interested in participating in GNSSN activities are welcome, they are asked to submit a letter of interest to the GNSSN Steering Committee indicating their interest in participating.

Networks

- Networks interested in becoming part of the GNSSN are to submit their request to the GNSSN Steering Committee.

Individuals

- Individuals interested in being GNSSN users need to submit their request to the Coordinator of each respective network.

Reporting

The GNSSN Secretariat will prepare an annual report on the development and usage of the GNSSN and will present this report to the GNSSN Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will identify performance areas to be evaluated as required.

Monitoring and performance processes are shortly described in Chapter 1, para 6 of the IAEA Strategic Approach on GNSSN and will be developed further in a dedicated document in the future.