

TERMS OF REFERENCES OF ANNuR

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 that 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 and security; radiation protection, radiation safety, waste and transport safety and safeguards;
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 international legally binding and non-legally binding instruments on nuclear safety, nuclear security and safeguards;
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 References to establish the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR) in Arab countries;

Name

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

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.

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 opportunities for mutual support and coordination of regional initiatives;
4. Provide for the establishment of a regional and national capacity building framework;

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 senior officials representing the regulatory bodies in member states as well as representatives from Arab Atomic Energy Agency (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 AAEA;
- 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;
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- b. will review and approve the ANNuR annual Work-plan;
- c. will request a member state to nominate a coordinator the each working group and will request member states to nominate 1 or 2 members for each working group;
- d. 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 Terms of Reference and submit it to the SC for approval.

1. Legislative and Regulatory infrastructure,
2. Integrated Management System,
3. Emergency preparedness and response,
4. Radioactive materials and waste management,
5. Nuclear Security,
6. Nuclear Safeguards*,
7. Transport of Nuclear & Radioactive Materials,
8. Safety Management of Nuclear Installations.

* The group of safeguards is not subject to IAEA's service of secretariat for the Working Groups.

1. Legislative and Regulatory Infrastructure

- To identify opportunities for meaningful sharing of information and experience to improve the effectiveness of the among Arab states and member's efforts in the establishment and maintain of such infrastructure that implement all related international recognized standards and conventions;
- 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;
- To draft modal legal provisions related to peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

2. Integrated Management Systems

- To identify the member states' needs to enhance the capacity in the area of Integrated Management Systems and provide prioritized needs for activity with justification;
 - To identify and share good practices and lessons among ANNuR member states in the area of Integrated Management Systems development, implementation and assessment;
 - To serve as a forum for information exchange and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on Integrated Management Systems;
 - To promote a strong safety culture within regulatory bodies and operating organizations through TWG activities;
 - To provide feedback on the experience in implementing TWG activity plans;
 - To participate in development of ANNuR strategic plan and support in follow up its implementation;
 - To Participate in development of ANNuR Management systems, Objectives, KPIs "when needed";
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- Establishing pool of Integrated Management System qualified experts in and for Arab region;

3. Emergency preparedness and response

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

4. Radioactive materials and waste management

- To identify and share best practices for safety of national radioactive waste management strategies;
- To establish or revise the national policies and strategies for Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources (DSRS) and RW management;
- To establish or review national regulatory framework dealing with RW and DSRS Management framework in accordance with the IAEA safety standards and security guidance;
- To improve the regulatory oversight of safety and security of predisposal and the disposal management of RW and DSRS;
- To develop human capabilities and capacities in overseeing the management of RW and DSRS;
- 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;

5. Nuclear Security

- To identify the member states' needs to enhance the capacity in the area of Nuclear Security and provide prioritized needs for activity with justification;
- To identify and share good practices and lessons among ANNuR member states in the area of Nuclear Security;
- To serve as a forum for information exchange and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on Nuclear Security;
- To promote a strong security culture within regulatory bodies and operating organizations through TWG activities;
- To provide feedback on the experience in implementing TWG activity plans;

6. Nuclear Safeguards

- To identify the member states' needs to enhance the capacity in the area of Nuclear Safeguards and provide prioritized needs for activity with justification;
 - To identify and share good practices and lessons learned among ANNuR member states in the area of Safeguards;
 - To serve as a forum for information exchange and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on Nuclear Safeguards;
 - To promote a strong safeguards culture within regulatory bodies and operating organizations through TWG activities;
 - To provide feedback on the experience in implementing TWG activity plans;
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7. Transport of radioactive materials

- To identify the member states' needs to enhance the capacity in the area of Transport of radioactive materials and provide prioritized needs for activity with justification;
- To identify and share good practices and lessons among ANNuR member states in the area of Transport of radioactive materials;
- To serve as a forum for information exchange and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on Transport of radioactive materials;
- To promote a strong safety culture within regulatory bodies and operating organizations through TWG activities;
- To provide feedback on the experience in implementing TWG activity plans;
- To promote cooperation between competent authorities for transport of radioactive materials ANNuR member states;

8. Safety Management of Nuclear Installations (Research and Power Reactors)

- To identify and share best practices for safety design, construction, operation (including ageing management), modification, periodic safety reviews and decommissioning of Nuclear 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 nuclear reactors and the application of IAEA Safety Standards;
- To identify needs of member's states on nuclear safety issues related to nuclear reactors;
- 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 nuclear reactors;
- To promote the mutual cooperation between participating member States in the safety operation of Nuclear Reactors;

Resources

Resources for the activities of ANNuR shall 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 Committee 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
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