



**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**REGULATORY COOPERATION FORUM**  
**JUNE 2014**

**Background**

At the 2009 Conference on “Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems” in Cape Town, South Africa, regulatory bodies of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Member States agreed to establish a regulator-to-regulator forum to promote collaboration and cooperation to improve coordination among Member States with well-established nuclear power programmes (providers) and those considering the introduction or expansion of such programmes (recipients).

In June 2010, the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF) was established. Its goal is to assist in the development of effectively independent and robust regulators of nuclear power. The IAEA was asked to provide the secretariat to the RCF.

Details for implementing the RCF programme are provided in the RCF Programme Plan.

**Objectives**

- To promote collaboration and cooperation among RCF members to improve coordination of support for regulatory infrastructure development;
- To contribute to achieving and sustaining a high level of nuclear safety, consistent with the IAEA Safety Standards and Guidance;
- To optimize resources among RCF members and avoid unnecessary support duplication through improved coordination.

**Guiding Principles**

The RCF will be guided by the following principles:

- a) The RCF is a member-driven forum of regulators of nuclear power and relevant international organizations.
- b) Members must assume full responsibility for their own regulatory body development.
- c) The scope of the RCF is currently limited to regulatory safety infrastructure development for nuclear power plants.
- d) RCF support activities are focused on regulatory authorities of Member States actively pursuing development of their nuclear safety regulatory infrastructures.
- e) The RCF will respect existing and future cooperation arrangements (bi-lateral or otherwise), including the disposition or application of resources, among its members.

- f) Each forum participant will make its own financial arrangements for participating in RCF activities.

### **Membership of the RCF**

Membership in the RCF is open to all Member States of the IAEA. RCF members will normally be senior representatives from regulatory bodies in Member States and from international organizations, such as the IAEA, the European Commission (EC) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Observers from other international or regional organizations may be invited to attend meetings or participate in RCF activities on a case-by-case basis or on a continuing basis by decision of the Steering Committee.

### **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee shall be established to provide leadership for the RCF and will ensure transparency, openness, efficient and effective planning and implementation of the RCF programme. The committee will meet at least one per year to make all RCF policy decisions by consensus.

### **Implementing Arrangements**

- a) An RCF plenary meeting will be held once per year, normally during the IAEA General Conference or other significant meetings for regulatory authorities.
- b) A support meeting will be held at least once a year for information exchange to coordinate assistance.
- c) Working groups will be established for specific programmatic and/or country-specific tasks. Membership of these groups will be nominated or delegated by RCF members. These working groups will be disbanded once their tasks are completed. These working groups will be approved by the Steering Committee.
- d) Ad-hoc meetings, facilitated by the RCF Secretariat, may be held between RCF members to share experiences regarding support activities.
- e) A secure RCF website will be established and maintained to share information and promote work of the RCF. A public version of the RCF web site will be made available through the IAEA's Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network in the RegNet environment.
- f) The RCF will continuously evaluate its activities and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

### **RCF Secretariat**

The IAEA, in its role as RCF Secretariat, will facilitate and promote the RCF within established Agency practices using professional staff provided to the IAEA through extrabudgetary contributions from RCF members. The IAEA will provide general staff with the regular budget, if available.

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