



Technical Meeting on Policies and Strategies for the Long Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

16–18 June 2026

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Currently, the average age of global operational nuclear power reactors is about 32 years, with over 67% of the total operating units being more than 30 years old. Approximately 32% of operating units are over 40 years old, and 6% are over 50 years old. The continued safe, reliable, and efficient operation of nuclear power plants (NPPs) is critical to the global pursuit of energy security, sustainability, and decarbonization. As nuclear energy contributes significantly to the world's low-carbon electricity generation, ensuring the long-term operation (LTO) of existing nuclear power reactors has become a strategic priority for both operating and newcomer countries.

Long-term operation typically refers to extending the operational life of a nuclear power plant beyond its original design life, usually after 30 to 40 years. This extension is contingent upon ensuring continued safety, reliable performance, and regulatory compliance. Well-designed national policies and strategies are vital for the systematic planning and execution of LTO programmes. These frameworks ensure that technical, economic, regulatory, environmental, and societal aspects are coherently addressed and that responsibilities are clearly defined among relevant stakeholders.

For operating countries, the benefits of LTO are multi-fold. Extending the life of existing NPPs is generally more cost-effective than building new capacity. It also maximizes the return on earlier investments, enhances energy supply stability, and contributes to climate change mitigation by preserving a low-emission energy source. However, the success of LTO initiatives relies on forward-looking policies that foster timely regulatory updates, investment in ageing management, human resource development, and public communication strategies.

For newcomer countries, where nuclear power infrastructure is still developing, incorporating LTO considerations from the outset ensures sustainable lifecycle planning. It helps avoid the pitfalls of short-term decision-making and enables the integration of long-term safety and performance standards from the initial design phases.

Despite the benefits, the implementation of LTO varies significantly across countries, influenced by different regulatory frameworks, technological capabilities, economic conditions, and political priorities. This disparity creates a need for harmonized guidance that aligns with international standards while allowing for flexibility in national contexts.

It was also noted during the IAEA's Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power Plant Operations (TWG-NPPOPS) meeting in April 2024 that, due to the nature of energy markets in some countries, the LTO of NPPs is threatened by a lack of long-term political, policy, investment, and regulatory perspectives. Given the dynamic nature of the nuclear power industry—characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA)—NPP owners and operators must become more proactive to avoid complacency. Therefore, it has been recommended that the Agency develop a structured methodology to support Member States in formulating policies and strategies for the LTO of NPPs.

In response, the IAEA has initiated the development of a Nuclear Energy Series (NES) publication preliminarily titled *Policies and Strategies for the Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants*. This publication will offer essential guidance to countries at all stages of nuclear energy development, helping ensure the safe, effective, and coordinated implementation of LTO programs. It will serve as a key reference for government bodies, regulatory authorities, and plant operators, particularly in states that are establishing or expanding nuclear energy programmes.

As part of its ongoing support for Member States in their LTO efforts, the IAEA officially launched the **International Network on Life Management of Nuclear Power Plants (LMNPP)** (website: [LMNPP Public](#)) in November 2022. Hosted on the IAEA CONNECT platform, the LMNPP Network fosters international cooperation, enhances knowledge-sharing in nuclear power plant life management, and establishes project-based Working Groups (WGs) to further support MS in LTO initiatives and knowledge transfer. Notably, WG10 is dedicated to developing policies and strategies for LTO, and the NES publication will be the key deliverable from this group.

The first virtual Consultancy Meeting on *Policies and Strategies for the Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants* was held from 17 to 20 June 2025 at the Vienna International Centre. During the meeting, participants discussed policies and strategies for the long-term operation (LTO) of nuclear power plants (NPPs) across Member States, reviewed the proposed structure of the NES publication provisionally entitled as *Policies and Strategies for the Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants*, identified contributors for each section, and formulated the key content for each part.

The second Consultancy Meeting and the third Consultancy Meeting on the same topic were held in June 2025 and March 2026. During these two meetings, the draft of the manuscript of the NES publication aforementioned was formulated and reviewed.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to serve as an international forum to share practical cases relating to policies and strategies for the long-term operation of nuclear power plants in Member States, in response to the relevant recommendation by the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power Plant Operations.

Additionally, it aims to collect feedback from Member States regarding the NES publication provisionally entitled as *Policies and Strategies for the Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants*.

Target Audience

The target audience includes government decision-makers, regulatory authorities, nuclear facility operators, and other stakeholders involved in LTO policy formulation, strategic planning, infrastructure development, and stakeholder engagement for nuclear power programmes in both operating and embarking countries.

Additionally, international organizations with an interest in the topic are welcome to attend.

Working Language(s)

English.

Topics

For Member States, the topics below are appropriate:

- LTO policy formulation and implementation;
- LTO strategic considerations for LTO implementation;
- LTO strategy planning and implementation;
- Continuous improvement and feedback.

For international organizations, the topics below are appropriate:

- Projects/Programs/Initiatives on Policies and Strategies for the Long-Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **10 April 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **10 April 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency’s Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA’s scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA’s mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Presentations should be prepared as Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) files. Computer-based projection facilities will be provided. Authors are requested to provide the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below) with electronic copies of their presentation files in advance of their scheduled presentation slot so that the files can be duly uploaded. Electronic versions of the presentations are also necessary to ensure timely issuance of the proceedings to be prepared and distributed in electronic form.

It is not mandatory for all participants to submit a presentation. However, the IAEA welcomes and encourages contributions in this format. Time for the presentations will be limited to 25 minutes followed by a five-minute discussion period.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **10 April 2026**.

Additionally, the draft of manuscripts will be shared with the participants before the meeting to collect their feedback in advance.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **10 April 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Room M0E75, Ground Floor, M Building, Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Additional Information

The event will start on Tuesday, 16 June 2026, at 9.30 a.m. and end on Thursday, 18 June 2026, at 3.00 p.m., please bring your own laptop if necessary.

IAEA Contacts

Scientific Secretary:

Ms YU, Qun (Annie)
Division of Nuclear Power
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel: (+43-1) 2600-25105
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: Q.Yu@iaea.org

Administrative Secretaries:

Ms Inessa Kovalenko
Division of Nuclear Power
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre

PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 22801
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: I.Kovalenko@iaea.org

Ms Lilly Makil
Division of Nuclear Power
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 22789
Fax: +43 1 26007
Email: L.Makil@iaea.org

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretaries.

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

www.iaea.org/events/evt2503677