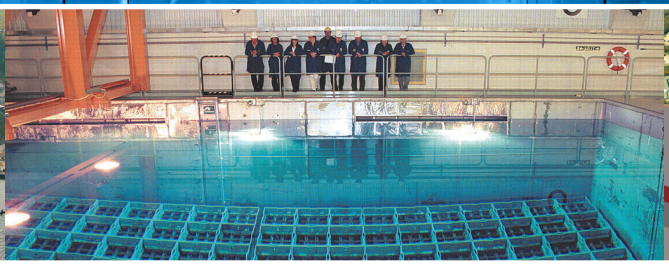
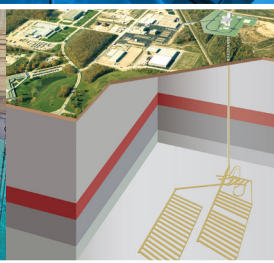
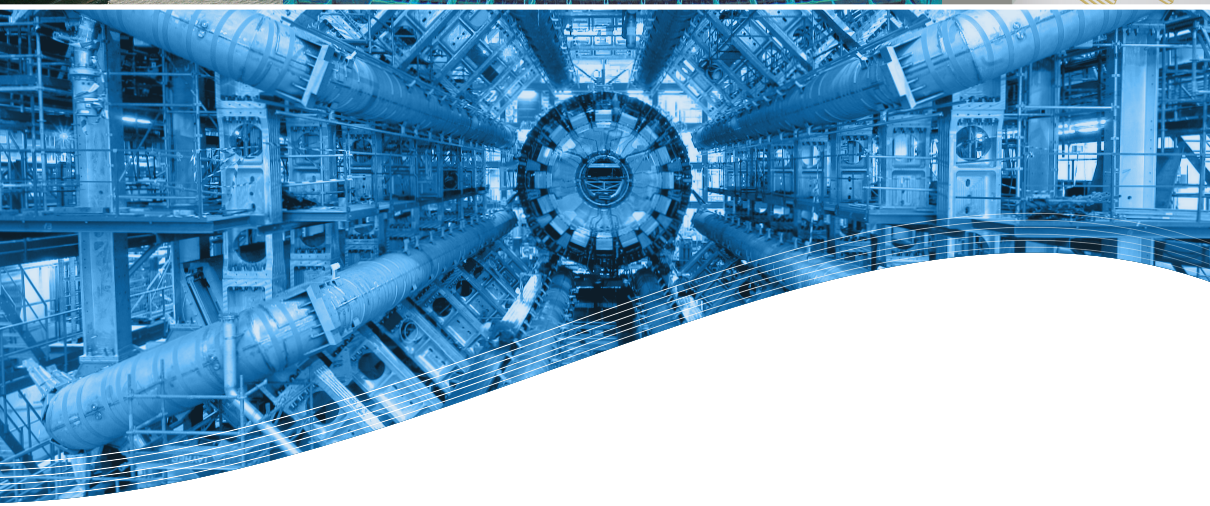
THE STRATEGIC PLAN
of the
Nuclear Energy Agency
2017-2022

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

NEA
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

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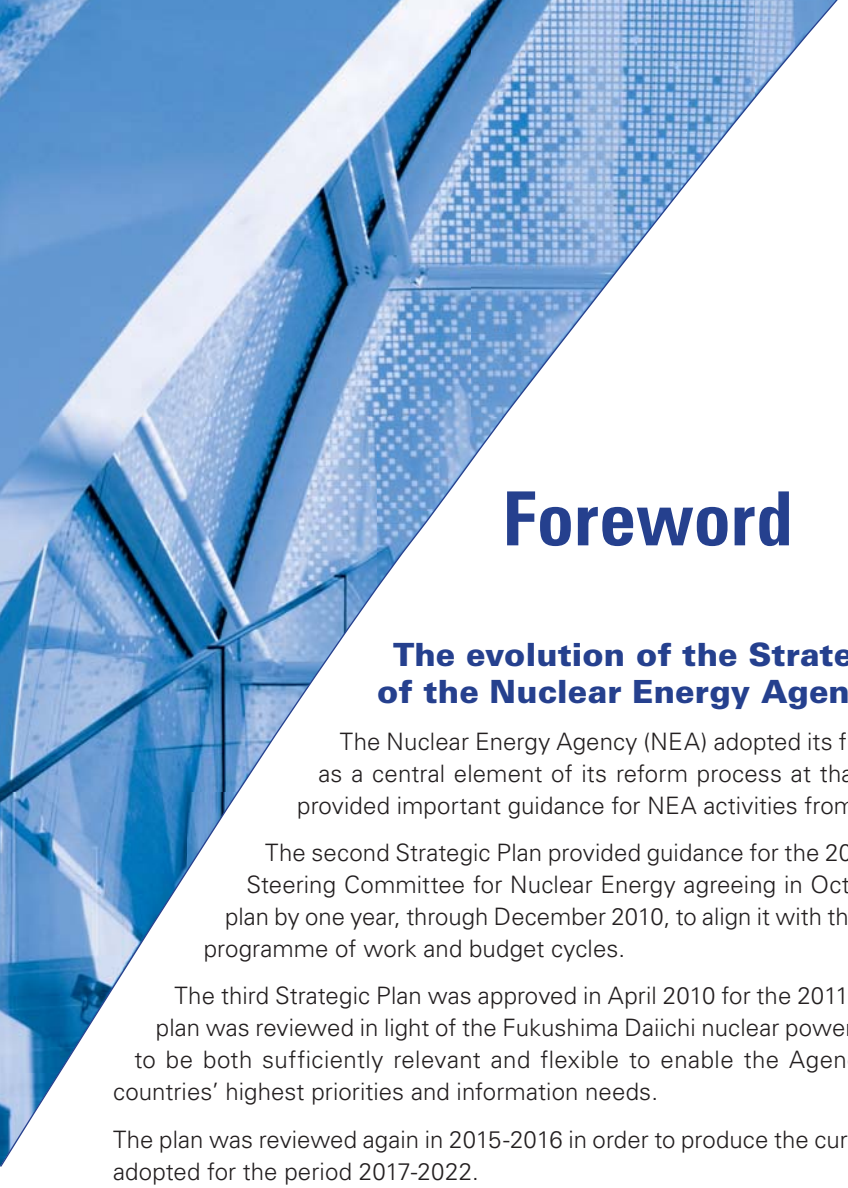
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



Foreword

The evolution of the Strategic Plan of the Nuclear Energy Agency

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) adopted its first Strategic Plan in 1999 as a central element of its reform process at that time. This original plan provided important guidance for NEA activities from 1999 to 2004.

The second Strategic Plan provided guidance for the 2005-2009 period, with the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy agreeing in October 2008 to extend this plan by one year, through December 2010, to align it with the OECD and NEA biennial programme of work and budget cycles.

The third Strategic Plan was approved in April 2010 for the 2011-2016 period. In 2011, the plan was reviewed in light of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident and found to be both sufficiently relevant and flexible to enable the Agency to meet the member countries' highest priorities and information needs.

The plan was reviewed again in 2015-2016 in order to produce the current fourth Strategic Plan, adopted for the period 2017-2022.

The purpose and structure of the NEA Strategic Plan

This Strategic Plan is intended to guide the NEA as it seeks to meet the evolving needs of member countries in the application and exploration of nuclear science and technology. The plan includes an executive summary as well as an introduction which describes the context in which the Strategic Plan has been prepared. It sets out the NEA mission statement and general strategies, and describes specific NEA activities, sector by sector. The plan then highlights the governance of the Agency and explains interactions with external organisations and groups, including those within the OECD family. The basis of authority for the Nuclear Energy Agency and its activities is presented in the Annex.

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Executive summary

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) is an intergovernmental agency which operates under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, related environmental and economic matters and law.

The 2017-2022 NEA Strategic Plan sets out the Agency's mission statement, general strategies and priorities, outlines NEA activities sector by sector, and describes the governance of the Agency and its interactions with external stakeholders, including those within the OECD family.

The current debate on energy is dominated by finding acceptable ways to supply the increasing demand for energy, ensuring the security and affordability of those energy supplies, and minimising the environmental impacts of emissions from the production and use of energy. By mid-century, global electricity demand is expected to increase by a factor of about 1.7 from today. At the same time, countries around the world have committed to reduce their dependences on fossil fuels and the currently escalating CO_2 emissions.

In the face of these challenges, nuclear power constitutes an established, reliable technology viewed by many countries as having potential to be part of the solution for achieving robust low-carbon economies. Nuclear reactors emit no greenhouse gases, sulphur dioxide or ozone during electricity generation. Entire life cycle analyses show that nuclear and renewables produce negligible emissions of CO_2 in comparison with the fossil fuel chains. At the same time, nuclear power plants have been demonstrated to be a reliable source of baseload electricity.

The degree to which nuclear power will contribute to addressing long-term energy supply needs will depend greatly on a number of factors, including the ability of operators and regulators around the world to ensure high levels of nuclear safety, particularly in the post-Fukushima context; the ability of governments, implementers and operators to meet their commitments to manage spent nuclear fuel effectively and to ensure the safe disposition of radioactive wastes; the ability of industry to continue demonstrating the responsible decommissioning of retired nuclear facilities; and the effectiveness of government and the international community to

address any concerns related to the security of nuclear material and facilities and the effectiveness of the non-proliferation regime. In the longer-term future, advanced technologies may come into use which could further mitigate these barriers.

The NEA is a centre of excellence, capable of meeting new challenges and adapting to circumstances by providing expert analyses and recommendations in a timely manner to its member countries and other interested stakeholders. Its mission over the six-year period is to assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It strives to provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues as input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy and to broader OECD policy analyses in areas such as energy, education and the development of long-term sustainable economic growth.

To fulfil its mission, the Agency will serve as a forum for sharing and analysing information and experience among member countries, foster international co-operation in the nuclear field, help member countries to pool and maintain their technical expertise and human infrastructure, and support nuclear activities by providing member countries with nuclear policy analyses. The NEA's specific goals are defined on a sector-by-sector basis in the following areas, with nuclear safety constituting a leading priority:

A. Nuclear safety technology, regulation and human aspects of safety: to assist member countries in their efforts to ensure high standards of safety in the use of nuclear energy, by supporting the development of effective and efficient regulation and oversight of nuclear installations and activities, by helping to maintain and advance the scientific and technological knowledge base and by promoting enhanced safety culture, effective training and other human aspects of nuclear safety.

B. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning: to assist member countries in the development of safe, sustainable and broadly acceptable strategies for the long-term management of all types of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel; and to provide governments and other relevant stakeholders with authoritative, reliable information on the political, strategic and regulatory aspects of decommissioning nuclear installations.

C. Radiological protection of public health and the environment: to assist member countries in the regulation, implementation and further development of the system of radiological protection by identifying and effectively addressing conceptual, scientific, policy, regulatory, operational and societal issues.

D. Nuclear science: to help member countries identify, collate, develop and disseminate the basic scientific and technical knowledge required to ensure the safe, reliable and economic operation of current and next-generation nuclear systems.

E. Development and the civil use of nuclear energy: to provide governments and other relevant stakeholders with authoritative, reliable information on current and future nuclear technologies. To provide information and analyses to decision makers regarding the future of nuclear energy – including on economic and resource analyses, public opinion, advances in nuclear power and fuel cycle technologies, and electricity production data – as well as to provide forecasts on the future role of nuclear energy in a sustainable development perspective and

within the context of national and international energy policies aiming to provide low-carbon electricity cost-effectively and at high levels of security of supply.

F. Legal affairs: to help create sound national and international legal regimes required for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including as regards nuclear safety, international trade in nuclear materials and equipment, public engagement, issues of liability and compensation for nuclear damage, and to serve as a leading centre for nuclear law information and education.

G. Data Bank: to be the international centre of reference for its participating countries with respect to basic nuclear tools, such as computer codes and nuclear data, used for the analysis and prediction of phenomena in the nuclear field; and to provide a direct service to its users by developing, improving and providing support and guidance for the validation of these tools and making them available as requested.

H. Information and communication: to provide member governments and other major stakeholders with information resulting from NEA activities and to enhance awareness and understanding of the scientific, technical, economic and legal aspects of nuclear activities as well as awareness of the NEA itself.

The NEA will pursue good co-operation and co-ordination with the OECD family, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Commission, and other international bodies in order to enhance efficiency, identifying areas of synergy, clarifying roles and areas of focus and helping to avoid duplication of effort. It will engage organisations such as the World Association of Nuclear Operators regarding matters of converging interest and liaise with industry and other stakeholders to collect and utilise relevant information and data in NEA work. The NEA will also establish effective relationships with partner countries whose participation in the NEA programme can be mutually beneficial, at the same time limiting further membership to countries that can make a significant contribution to the Agency.

NEA staff, in close collaboration with the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy and the NEA standing technical committees, will ensure the Agency's effectiveness by establishing and carrying out a programme of work that meets the needs of member countries consistent with this Strategic Plan and by establishing clear methods for dealing efficiently with cross-cutting issues that concern more than one sector of NEA activity.

Accomplishing the goals set out in the Strategic Plan presupposes a stable and predictable level of financial resources. The Strategic Plan has been developed based on the hypothesis that resources over the next six years are adequate and sustainable. NEA management will seek to allocate resources in agreement with Agency mandates and the priorities, with consideration of NEA participation in emerging efforts such as OECD cross-cutting activities.

I. Introduction

Energy demand, the security of energy supplies, sustainability and affordability: A 21st century global challenge

The current global discussion about energy is dominated by finding acceptable ways to supply the increasing demand for energy, ensuring the security and affordability of those energy supplies and minimising the environmental impacts of emissions from the production and use of energy.

Long-term projections continue to show a steady rise in global energy demand, especially in non-OECD countries. In developing countries, the drive for social and economic progress naturally leads to lifestyles with increased per capita energy consumption, a decades-long trend that is compounded by global population growth. According to the latest figures of the International Energy Agency (IEA), by mid-century, global electricity demand is expected to increase by a factor of about 1.7 from today, with projected electricity generation growing by a little less than 20% in OECD countries, but by more than 130% in non-OECD countries.

The security and affordability of energy supplies is a growing concern, particularly for countries that depend heavily on energy imports due to limited indigenous fuel resources. On the one hand, the last few years have witnessed remarkable changes in energy markets, with oil and gas prices falling in the last five years driven by increased production of non-conventional fossil fuels, in particular shale gas, and energy demand stagnating in OECD countries while continuing to rise in developing countries. On the other hand and as far as electricity markets are concerned, NEA and IEA analyses demonstrate that certain policies are leading to falling wholesale prices that are undermining the profitability of dispatchable sources such as gas, coal, nuclear or even hydro. This can lead in some cases to mothballing of existing generating infrastructures, and sometimes even to their premature closure, despite their apparent long-term value to overall energy supply.

Throughout NEA member countries, governments have invoked a variety of strategies to enhance the security of their energy supplies, encouraging energy conservation and efficiency measures, investing in energy infrastructure and energy R&D, developing policies supporting renewable energy sources and in some cases, nuclear power or unconventional oil and gas resources, and generally diversifying their portfolios of energy suppliers.

At the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris in December 2015, governments across the world agreed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The power sector, which is responsible for over 40% of global emissions from the energy sector, will be the focus of most of the efforts and nuclear energy will contribute to the decarbonisation of the power sector in those countries which opt to use it. In addition to the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution from fossil fuels is a growing matter of concern. In the case of nuclear reactors, they do not emit greenhouse gases, sulphur dioxide or ozone during electricity generation. Entire life cycle analyses show that nuclear and renewables produce negligible emissions of CO_2 in comparison with the fossil fuel chains. At the same time, nuclear power plants have been demonstrated to be a reliable source of baseload electricity and the costs of nuclear electricity generation for countries with nuclear power programmes can be competitive with those of coal and gas. However, ensuring that economies stay within a 2°C trajectory will require changes in government policies and social behaviours, otherwise the future will see ever-greater levels of energy and electricity consumption, continuing dependence on fossil fuels, including non-conventional ones, and escalating CO_2 emissions.

Current nuclear energy trends

In the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi accident of March 2011, the NEA was at the forefront of international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety, regulation, research and radiological protection following the accident. The safety of nuclear power plants around the world was assessed in national and international peer reviews, and operators have since been implementing safety upgrades wherever it was deemed necessary to meet new safety requirements. In addition, attention is also being given to the safety of the long-term operation of existing reactors. With the new standards and with Generation III and III+ reactor construction projects around the world, there is an overall improvement in the safety of nuclear power generation.

Most countries that were considering nuclear power as part of their future electricity mix have maintained that objective. The pace of construction has picked up again, with 67 reactors under construction at the end of 2015, representing nearly 67 GW of capacity. At the beginning of 2014, this number even reached 72 reactors under construction, the highest number in 25 years. Grid connections are also on the rise again, doubling between 2014 and 2015 to ten. China is leading the way, with 24 reactors currently under construction, including the first Chinese Generation III reactor (Hualong One).

While several countries have good experiences in building nuclear power reactors on time and to budget, concerns remain about construction costs and schedules, highlighted by news of delays and cost overruns in the construction of some first-of-a-kind (FOAK) Generation III

reactors. Questions are also being raised in some countries regarding decommissioning costs and their funding. While recent studies[1] performed by the IEA and the NEA show that nuclear energy costs remain in line with the cost of other baseload technologies, particularly in markets that value decarbonisation, the challenge of financing these capital-intensive infrastructures remain, especially in deregulated electricity markets. Improvement in project structure and organisation of the supply chain, lessons learnt from FOAK projects, and enhanced harmonisation of codes and standards as well as regulatory requirements, should help reduce construction times in the coming years.

In the 2°C scenario (2DS) highlighted in the 2015 edition of the *Technology Roadmap: Nuclear Energy*, jointly prepared by the IEA and the NEA, for the world to meet its stated environmental goals in an economic manner, nuclear capacity would need to more than double to over 900 GW (gross) by 2050, with the share of nuclear-generated electricity increasing from 11% today to 17%. According to that scenario, in 2050, nuclear power would represent one of the largest sources of electricity generation worldwide, and cumulatively up to 2050, would provide the largest savings in terms of CO_2 emissions of all technologies. As noted in the 2015 IEA/NEA Technology Roadmap, nuclear energy currently contributes to a reduction of CO_2 emissions from the power sector of about 1.3 to 2.6 gigatonnes (Gt) of CO_2 every year, assuming it replaces either gas- or coal-fired generation. Furthermore, nuclear energy is the only large-scale source of low-carbon electricity that is both dispatchable and scalable.

The potential for using nuclear power to address the challenges of energy demand, energy security and climate change issues is considerable. However, the degree to which nuclear will contribute to this solution remains unclear. This potential will hinge on decision processes and assessments in NEA member countries and beyond as well as on, among other things, the success of nuclear operators, nuclear regulators and organisations such as the NEA and others in their efforts to ensure high levels of nuclear safety, effective radioactive waste disposal and the competitiveness of investments in nuclear energy compared to other forms of electricity generation.

Among these challenges, many governments appear to struggle most with establishing policies and approaches for the long-term management of spent nuclear fuel and the disposal of radioactive waste. However, some countries have made good progress based on mature technologies. In November 2015, Finland became the first country to issue a construction licence for a deep geological repository (DGR) for spent nuclear fuel. The construction of DGRs for high-level radioactive waste is expected to begin in additional countries in the next decade. More work will nevertheless be needed in this area, as well as on long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, proliferation-resistant recycling of spent fuel and advanced nuclear systems with innovative fuel cycle approaches, in order to enhance public and political confidence that the back-end of the fuel cycle can be managed appropriately.

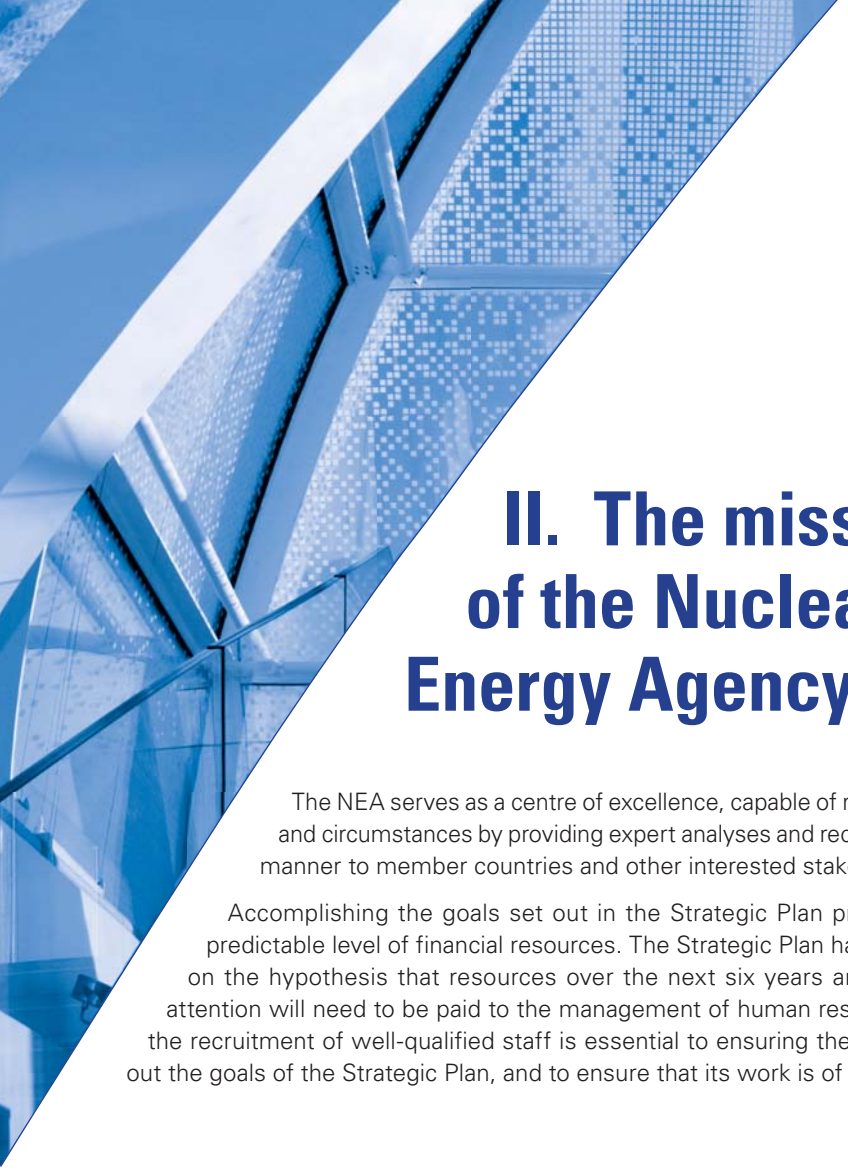
1. *Projected Costs of Generating Electricity: 2015 Edition*, IEA/NEA, OECD, 2015.

While the use of commercial nuclear power plants and the civilian nuclear fuel cycle do not, with the implementation of the global non-proliferation system, present risks towards the proliferation of nuclear weapons, improved confidence in the international non-proliferation regime will be beneficial. However, it appears that concerns related to the diversion of radiological materials are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

As policy makers search for advice and recommendations to address extraordinarily challenging global issues with respect to energy demand, the security of energy supplies and sustainability, they find that in realistic assessments, there are no perfect solutions. Each technology for generating electricity comes with advantages and disadvantages. Each carries an array of risks and impacts. When analysing these technologies comparatively, policy makers as well as the public should be provided with the necessary information to make their comparisons thoroughly, fairly and across the entire life cycle of the technologies concerned. The NEA will work to provide this information as concerns nuclear energy, with the understanding that the decisions that arise from these assessments in member countries will have implications not only for the future of nuclear power, but more broadly for the environmental health of the planet and the societal well-being of future generations.

Impact on the NEA

In the context described above, it is worth noting that the OECD is encouraging the development and implementation of policies that will result in a more robust, more equitable and more environmentally friendly global society. The Agency, because of its size and membership composition, has indeed the necessary flexibility and reactivity to adapt to new challenges brought on by a changing world.



II. The mission of the Nuclear Energy Agency

The NEA serves as a centre of excellence, capable of reacting to new challenges and circumstances by providing expert analyses and recommendations in a timely manner to member countries and other interested stakeholders.

Accomplishing the goals set out in the Strategic Plan presupposes a stable and predictable level of financial resources. The Strategic Plan has been developed based on the hypothesis that resources over the next six years are sustainable. Particular attention will need to be paid to the management of human resources at the Agency, as the recruitment of well-qualified staff is essential to ensuring the Agency's ability to carry out the goals of the Strategic Plan, and to ensure that its work is of the highest quality.

A. Mission statement

The mission of the NEA is to assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It strives to provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues as input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy and to broader OECD analyses in areas such as energy and the sustainable development of low-carbon economies.

B. General strategies

To fulfil its mission, the Agency will:

Serve as a forum for sharing and analysing information and experience among member countries, by:

- maintaining an efficient communications network among nuclear experts;
- interacting with the main players in the nuclear field, promoting an open dialogue among operators, regulators, government policy specialists, research and development specialists, international organisations and other stakeholders;
- involving selected non-member partner countries with good non-proliferation credentials, particularly those that are significant players in the nuclear field and that can provide added value to the Agency's activities;
- alerting policy makers and regulators to significant scientific developments and their implications;
- preparing state-of-the-art reports that summarise current knowledge in specific technical or regulatory policy areas;
- ensuring appropriate dissemination of the scientific and technical results of its work; and
- elevating its visibility in member countries and in the international community as an objective and non-promotional organisation.

Foster international co-operation in the nuclear field, by:

- helping to identify common issues, lessons and opportunities, including with selected non-member partner countries as described above;
- facilitating the development of consensus positions, including "collective opinions", among member countries;
- developing best practices, common strategies and joint approaches to address pressing issues;
- identifying and addressing gaps in scientific knowledge needing to be filled in support of policy, regulatory and technical decisions;
- facilitating the development, organisation and co-ordination of internationally funded research projects and other joint undertakings; and
- pursuing strategic collaboration with international organisations in areas of mutual interest.

Help member countries to pool and maintain their technical expertise and human infrastructure, and support their nuclear activities, by:

- assessing developments in the state of the art, documenting experiments and maintaining databases across a range that serves the needs of technical specialists, decision makers, opinion leaders and stakeholders, using, when appropriate, economic tools;
- collaborating on joint events and activities with the IAEA and other relevant organisations on topics of mutual interest in the nuclear energy field;

- providing advice as a scientific, technical, economic and legal centre of nuclear competence;
- contributing to the management and preservation of nuclear knowledge developed through past member country and NEA programmes and experience;
- supporting member countries in their efforts to secure qualified human resources, nuclear skills capability building and the development of a new generation of nuclear experts; and
- organising peer reviews.

Provide member countries with nuclear policy analyses, by:

- carrying out studies on fundamental aspects of current and future use of nuclear technologies, including life cycle regulation and economic analyses;
- contributing to studies on broader issues, including those carried out within the OECD on energy and green growth;
- drawing on the expertise, products and analytical methods of OECD family organisations; and
- taking into account human and societal issues as well as concerns of the general public.

C. Activities and operations

To fulfil its mission the NEA will pursue work within the following sector-specific activities:

1. Nuclear safety technology, regulation and human aspects of safety;
2. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning;
3. Radiological protection of public health and the environment;
4. Nuclear science;
5. Development and the civil use of nuclear energy;
6. Legal affairs;
7. Data Bank;
8. Information and communication.

These sectors of activity are central to the fulfilment of the NEA mission, with nuclear safety constituting a leading priority. They are elaborated individually in Chapter III. The introduction to each sector sets out the goal of NEA work in that area, and explains its importance as a core NEA activity. Strategies are then given to describe how the goal will be achieved.

The selection of these sectors of activity is based, first and foremost, on a careful evaluation that compares the needs of the international community to the potential for the NEA to add value. This naturally directs attention to:

- identifying and addressing common technical problems;
- improving the databases used in scientific, technical, regulatory, legal, economic and policy analysis;
- making high-quality information available to decision makers;

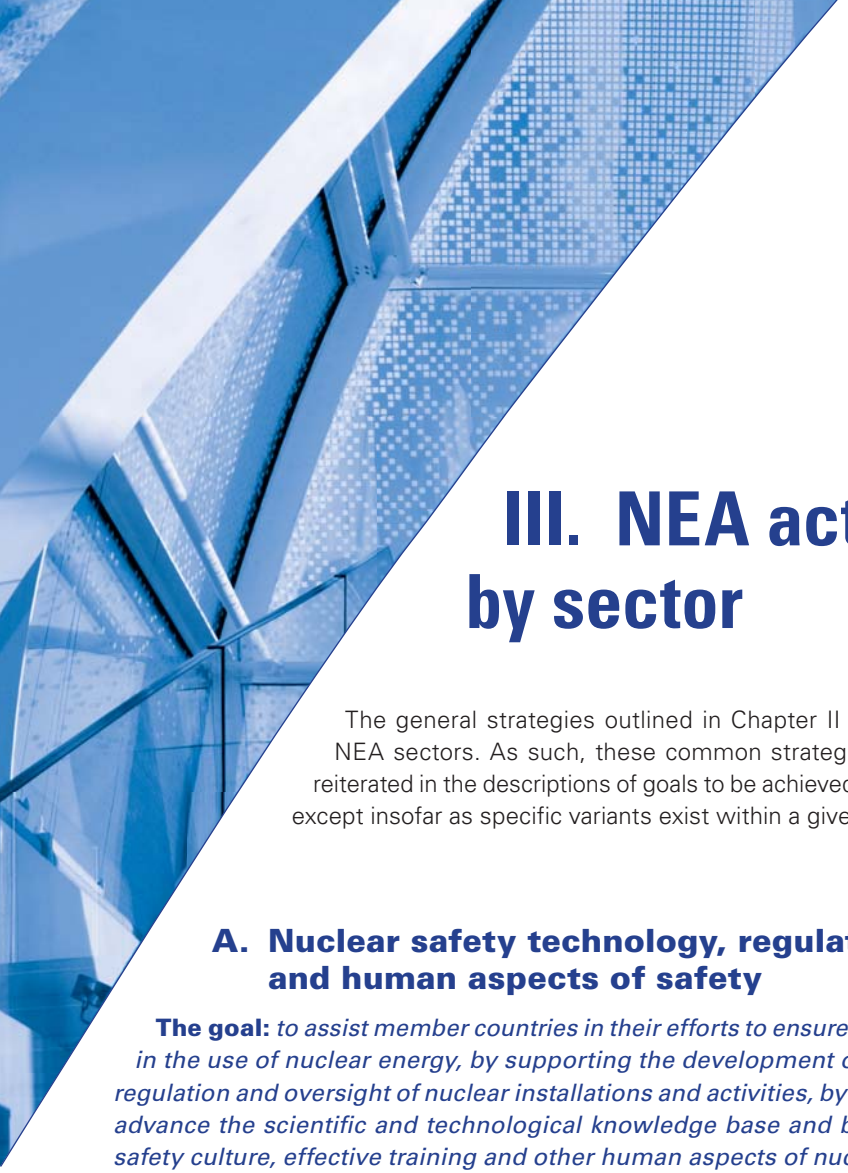
- developing common approaches for transparency;
- promoting common methodologies, practices and approaches;
- economic analyses and assessments;
- promoting continuous improvements in achieving efficiency; and
- optimising the cost-benefit of NEA activities to member countries.

The first six sectors elaborated in Chapter III provide guidance in organising the work of NEA staff. Naturally, some NEA activities concern more than one of these sectors. Examples include: human aspects of nuclear safety, knowledge management, infrastructure and education, and future research needs. Such cross-cutting activities are co-ordinated in Agency practice. A fuller description of how the Agency deals with cross-cutting activities is provided in Chapter IV.

All NEA activities, including cross-cutting activities, are described in the biennial Programme of Work and Budget, which is approved by the NEA Steering Committee and submitted to the OECD Council in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organisation as a whole.

A standing technical committee (STC) structure has been established by the Steering Committee to carry out NEA core activities. This structure does not attempt to mirror strictly the sectors of the Strategic Plan. Rather, it is designed to make the best use of existing competencies across the STCs, while maintaining flexibility in carrying out the Programme of Work.

The NEA management seeks to allocate resources in accordance with Agency mandates and the priorities given to the sectors of activity, taking into account additional demands that may arise from member countries and proposals for extending NEA participation in OECD cross-cutting activities in relevant policy areas. Budgetary constraints require the NEA to continue optimising the use of its resources so as to maintain its traditional strengths while responding to the changing global economic environment and the need to address cross-cutting issues more efficiently. However, the fact that the NEA needs sustainable resources is fundamental.



III. NEA activities by sector

The general strategies outlined in Chapter II are common to multiple NEA sectors. As such, these common strategies and activities are not reiterated in the descriptions of goals to be achieved and activities that follow, except insofar as specific variants exist within a given sector.

A. Nuclear safety technology, regulation and human aspects of safety

The goal: *to assist member countries in their efforts to ensure high standards of safety in the use of nuclear energy, by supporting the development of effective and efficient regulation and oversight of nuclear installations and activities, by helping to maintain and advance the scientific and technological knowledge base and by promoting enhanced safety culture, effective training and other human aspects of nuclear safety.*

Member countries have two interrelated objectives related to their nuclear facilities: maintaining and improving high standards of nuclear safety that reflect the current state of science, technology and management, and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of nuclear regulation. The NEA assists its member countries in maintaining and continuously evolving the scientific, technical, management and regulatory knowledge base required to ensure the safety of design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of nuclear reactors and other civilian nuclear installations as well as the safety of nuclear activities. International nuclear co-operation greatly expands the base of knowledge and experience, thereby enhancing the national capacity for addressing safety concerns, and supporting efforts to maintain safety performance and regulation at the highest levels.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- facilitate an effective exchange of safety-relevant information among member countries, in order to identify significant generic issues and trends and to develop common understanding and approaches with a view to anticipate the resolution of such generic issues;
- foster the continuous enhancement of the knowledge base of nuclear safety and the safety expertise capability in member countries, through scientific co-operation and the development of joint projects;
- assist member countries in the resolution of safety issues and strengthen confidence in the solutions and their implementation;
- address safety issues associated with new technologies and reactor designs;
- address issues associated with nuclear safety culture and other human and organisational factors;
- help maintain an adequate level of capability and competence in member countries necessary to ensure the safety of existing facilities, in particular their long-term operation, and future nuclear facilities and activities; and
- enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory process and encourage harmonisation of the regulatory processes.

B. Radioactive waste management and decommissioning

The goal: *to assist member countries in the development of safe, sustainable and broadly acceptable strategies for the long-term management of all types of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel; and to provide governments and other relevant stakeholders with authoritative, reliable information on the political, strategic and regulatory aspects of decommissioning nuclear installations.*

Radioactive waste in various forms exists in countries with and without nuclear power programmes as a result of past and present activities and from retired nuclear facilities which will be dismantled. Retired facilities, radioactive materials that no longer serve a needed purpose, and waste products must be managed responsibly and in an integrated fashion, for the sake of present and future generations. Significant progress has been achieved on the scientific and technological aspects of waste management, and considerable experience is available in NEA member countries on radioactive waste and materials processing, conditioning, storage, transport and disposal. In some countries, specific experience is available in managing the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and handling the resulting waste streams. The long-term management of all kinds of radioactive waste is an area of particular focus in terms of how best to integrate technical advances with societal demands in decision-making, and correspondingly how to refine regulatory and policy frameworks. Specific demands also arise from the generation and management of waste from decommissioning. International co-operation amongst waste management and decommissioning operators, regulators, policy makers and R&D specialists is essential to fostering a broader understanding of the issues at hand and formulating more widely acceptable solutions.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- bring about a shared and broad-based understanding of the management of all kinds of radioactive waste and materials, taking into account legal, societal and economic considerations;
- identify best practices, technologies and methodologies to ensure effective management of radioactive wastes and conduct of decommissioning activities, including in terms of costs and their financing;
- facilitate the elaboration and implementation of waste management and decommissioning strategies and methodologies at national and international levels;
- help elaborate common understanding of regulatory approaches in the management of radioactive waste;
- provide for international peer reviews to ensure that best practices are a continued feature of regulatory and technical approaches in waste management and decommissioning;
- exchange experiences and share approaches to the engagement of stakeholders and the general public in decisions and approaches to the management of radioactive wastes and conduct of decommissioning activities;
- explore the implications of very long time frames and the related challenges of transfer of responsibilities and knowledge; and
- identify specific issues of interest in which involved institutions and other stakeholders can learn from each other, and provide a platform for discussing those issues.

C. Radiological protection of public health and the environment

The goal: *to assist member countries in the regulation, implementation and further development of the system of radiological protection by identifying and effectively addressing conceptual, scientific, policy, regulatory, operational and societal issues.*

In order to reap the benefits and address the potential hazards associated with the use of radiation and radioactive materials, NEA member countries proactively establish systems to ensure the radiological protection of people and the environment. New scientific and social challenges continue to arise in this area. In recent years, this has included the consideration of issues such as the radiological protection of non-human species and the application of modern risk-informed approaches to radiological decision-making. In response, the international system of radiological protection, international standards, and national policies and regulations are also evolving.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- identify emerging issues in radiological protection science and facilitate the application of new scientific knowledge for practical uses;
- assist policy makers in developing and improving radiological protection policies to best reflect state-of-the-art science and technology;

- assess and comment on selected draft recommendations and standards to identify their possible implications for the regulation and implementation of radiological protection;
- contribute to reaching a harmonised framework for regulatory issues in radiological protection, including related public health and environmental issues;
- help member countries improve their radiological emergency preparedness and management as well as their operational radiological protection capabilities; and
- assist member countries in tackling the social challenges related to radiological protection including effective public communications.

D. Nuclear science

The goal: *to help member countries identify, collate, develop and disseminate the basic scientific and technical knowledge required to ensure the safe, reliable and economic operation of current and next-generation nuclear systems.*

Research capability and technical expertise in basic disciplines, such as reactor physics, thermal hydraulics, neutronics, fuel physics and chemistry, radiation physics and material science, are needed to develop nuclear programmes and to maintain and enhance a high level of performance and safety. Advancing this body of knowledge is central to addressing issues of importance for current-generation nuclear facilities, but is just as essential to the design, construction and operation of new reactors and fuel cycles. Experts working on future nuclear technologies will also greatly benefit from the systematic accumulation of knowledge in these areas. Fostering the active preservation and development of this knowledge in an international framework and enhancing the dissemination of the scientific results are vital to the effective performance of nuclear activities.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- help advance the existing scientific knowledge needed to enhance the performance and safety of current nuclear systems;
- contribute to building a solid scientific and technical basis for the development of future-generation nuclear systems;
- support the preservation of essential knowledge in the field of nuclear science; and
- support the maintenance and development of essential skills capabilities, particularly through education and training of a new generation of nuclear scientists.

E. Development and the civil use of nuclear energy

The goal: *to provide governments and other relevant stakeholders with authoritative, reliable information on current and future nuclear technologies. To provide information and analyses to decision makers regarding the future of nuclear energy – including on economic and resource analyses, public opinion, advances in nuclear power and fuel cycle technologies, and electricity production data – as well as to provide forecasts on the future role of nuclear energy in a sustainable development perspective and within the context of national and international energy policies aiming to provide low-carbon electricity cost-effectively and at high levels of security of supply.*

Energy, particularly in the form of electricity, is a vital public resource needed to support modern life. NEA member country governments strive to ensure that energy is supplied economically, securely and with acceptable environmental impact. Nuclear energy generates an important share of the total electricity produced in NEA member countries (about 18% in 2016) and has the potential to play an even greater role in ensuring security of supply in the future as governments move to increase the use of low-carbon means of electricity generation to reach their often challenging emission reduction commitments. There are many synergies among individual countries on nuclear energy topics and the associated economic issues have considerable international implications. The added value of the NEA is rooted in its engagement of a broad range of expertise in its studies, which leads to robust and credible findings and conclusions that support sound national policy-making.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- analyse the economics of nuclear power across the full nuclear fuel cycle as well as at the system level in the context of changes in electricity markets, social acceptance and technological advances, and assist member countries in evaluating the role of nuclear energy in their energy policies;
- promote international co-operation on the development of innovative nuclear energy systems;
- review the role of nuclear energy in the broader perspective of climate change and sustainable development;
- analyse the contribution of nuclear power to the smooth functioning of low-carbon electricity systems;
- assess the availability of nuclear fuel, including uranium resources, and the infrastructure required for the deployment of existing and future nuclear power and identify the eventual gaps;
- review the role of research and development in new nuclear technologies and their impact in energy generation and non-power applications;
- assist member countries, upon request, in addressing emerging concerns related to nuclear technology and radioactive materials, including medical radioisotopes; and
- engage within and outside the OECD framework to establish a communication network aiming at providing factual information on nuclear issues.

F. Legal affairs

The goal: *to help create sound national and international legal regimes required for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including as regards nuclear safety, international trade in nuclear materials and equipment, public engagement, issues of liability and compensation for nuclear damage, and to serve as a leading centre for nuclear law information and education.*

Achieving confidence in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy requires the existence of comprehensive and effective legal regimes whose goals are to protect the public and the natural environment from the risks inherent in those activities. These regimes include regulation

at a national level, co-operation at bilateral and multilateral levels and international harmonisation of national policies and legislation through adherence to international conventions. They need to be strong enough to set and enforce limits, and flexible enough to keep pace with technological advances and changing public concerns.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- assist member countries in the development, strengthening and harmonisation of nuclear legislation and regulation in areas such as nuclear safety, radioactive waste management and environmental law (as applied to nuclear activities) based upon internationally accepted principles and in line with international binding instruments for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy;
- contribute to the modernisation of the international nuclear liability regimes and encourage the strengthening of treaty relations between interested countries to address liability and compensation for nuclear damage; and
- collect, analyse and disseminate information on nuclear law generally and on topical nuclear legal issues in particular.

G. Data Bank

The goal: *to be the international centre of reference for its participating countries with respect to basic nuclear tools, such as computer codes and nuclear data, used for the analysis and prediction of phenomena in the nuclear field; and to provide a direct service to its users by developing, improving and providing support and guidance for the validation of these tools and making them available as requested.*

Computer codes and nuclear data are fundamental tools to analyse and predict phenomena in the field of the nuclear engineering. It is essential that these codes and data be internationally validated and disseminated in order to become common tools for all actors in the nuclear area.

The Data Bank was created by decision of the Steering Committee based on Articles 5.b and 12.b of the NEA Statute and in succession to the Computer Program Library and the Neutron Data Compilation Centre. Although a part of the NEA, it has a separate group of participants and budget. The Data Bank carries out scientific activities related to computer codes and nuclear data and supports various parts of the NEA with its expertise, thus benefiting from and contributing to the general capability of the NEA.

To achieve this goal, the Data Bank will:

- develop and expand the services to scientists in its participating countries;
- facilitate open communication and actively seek feedback from its users and stakeholders;
- maintain an up-to-date collection of verified and validated nuclear data and computer programs and support new developments in modelling methods;
- advance the state of the art and assist its participating countries in computer code and nuclear data validation as well as preserve know-how in these fields;
- provide support for knowledge preservation efforts and the associated database development and maintenance; and
- make expertise available to other parts of the NEA.

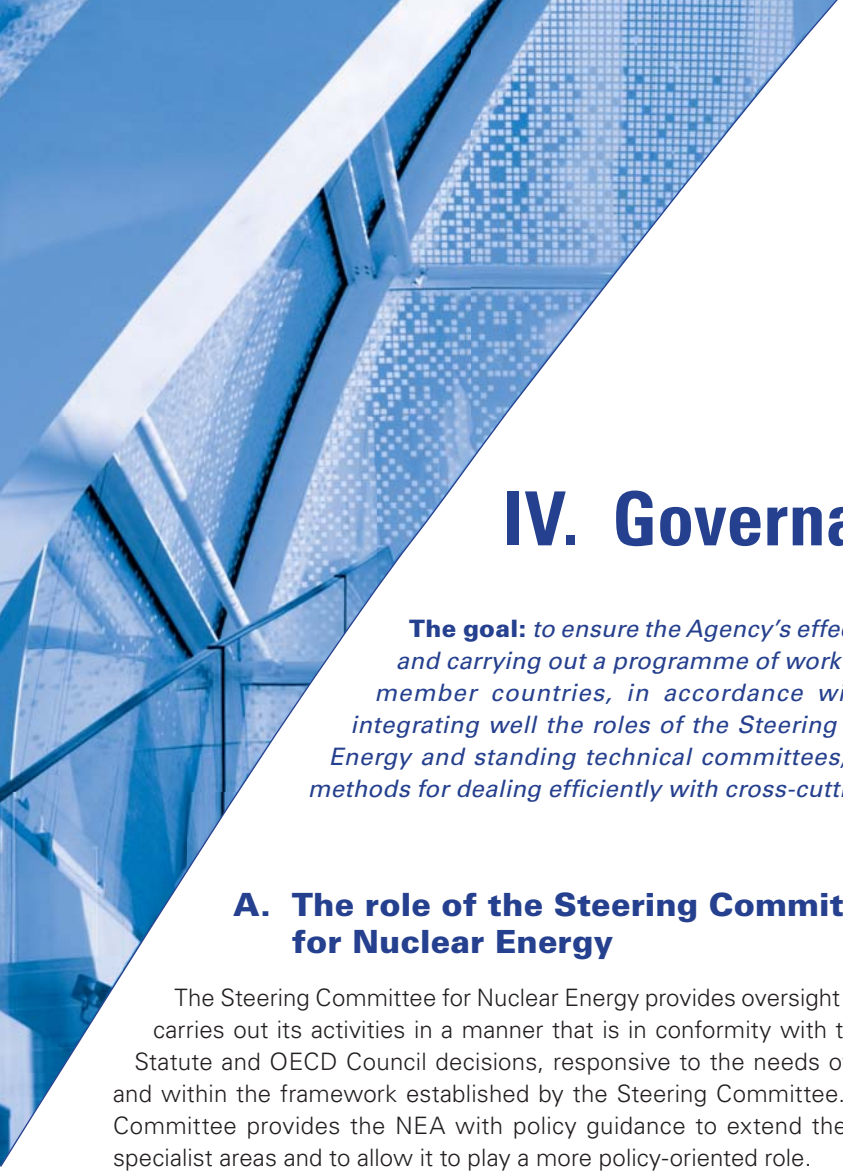
H. Information and communication

The goal: *to provide member governments and other major stakeholders with information resulting from NEA activities and to enhance awareness and understanding of the scientific, technical, economic and legal aspects of nuclear activities as well as awareness of the NEA itself.*

The dissemination of authoritative information and rigorous analyses to policymakers and other interested stakeholders is key to well-informed, credible and transparent decision-making in the nuclear energy field. Improving the visibility of the NEA and its ability to convey the results of its work to member countries contributes to this endeavour.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- provide governments, political decision-making circles, opinion leaders and other major stakeholders with specialised scientific, technical, legal and economic information, analyses and policy recommendations in a timely manner;
- meet the evolving information needs of a diverse audience by producing publications, technical reports, policy briefs and other materials as useful;
- promote NEA reports and findings widely in member countries and beyond, including at major international conferences;
- increase its visibility through participation by NEA management in major international fora and conferences in member countries and elsewhere;
- continue enhancement and strengthening of all NEA communications platforms, including the NEA website and social media channels, and maintain appropriate contacts with the media; and
- reinforce its corporate identity by presenting the NEA as an objective and non-promotional source of high-quality information and rigorous analyses, and a repository of scientific and technical know-how on key aspects of nuclear energy to advance co-operation in the safe and economical use of nuclear power and non-power applications.



IV. Governance

The goal: *to ensure the Agency's effectiveness in establishing and carrying out a programme of work that meets the needs of member countries, in accordance with the Strategic Plan, integrating well the roles of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy and standing technical committees, and establishing clear methods for dealing efficiently with cross-cutting issues.*

A. The role of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy

The Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy provides oversight to ensure that the Agency carries out its activities in a manner that is in conformity with the provisions of the NEA Statute and OECD Council decisions, responsive to the needs of NEA member countries and within the framework established by the Steering Committee. In addition, the Steering Committee provides the NEA with policy guidance to extend the Agency's focus beyond specialist areas and to allow it to play a more policy-oriented role.

To achieve this goal, working with the NEA's expert staff, the Steering Committee will:

- increase its role in the preparation of the Programme of Work, including the prioritisation of activities and the identification of cross-cutting issues, and periodically review the NEA's mission statement and mandates of the standing technical committees (STCs) to help ensure that both the NEA's broader objectives and specific activities continue to respond to the needs of member countries;
- assess, monitor and provide guidance in the implementation of the Programme of Work;
- pursue a policy-oriented role for the NEA on broad energy, economic and environmental policy issues affecting nuclear energy, including by maintaining capacity for technical, policy and other debates related to this role;
- seek opportunities for greater efficiency and cross-cutting activities across the Agency and in co-ordination with other OECD elements and other international organisations;

- maintain close ties with the STCs, in particular to address cross-cutting issues by developing joint policy approaches and outputs in the Programme of Work; and
- monitor and periodically evaluate the implementation of the Strategic Plan itself.

B. The role of the standing technical committees

A standing technical committee (STC) structure has been established by the Steering Committee to carry out the NEA Programme of Work efficiently in the sectors of activity, and to develop the basic strengths of the Agency as a key international instrument of co-operation. Composed of member country experts, the STCs constitute a unique feature and important strength of the NEA, providing flexibility for adapting to new issues and helping to achieve consensus rapidly.

To achieve these goals, working with the NEA's expert staff, the STCs will:

- foster international co-operation in the NEA sectors of activity under the guidance of the Steering Committee, with a view to advancing a common knowledge base and to developing common approaches and consensus by exchanging information and experience, proposing prioritised activities for the future Programme of Work and pursuing the widest possible dissemination of the results of their work;
- optimise co-ordination among themselves and treat cross-cutting issues efficiently by co-operating on joint studies or joint groups as necessary, and ensuring that the existing expertise in the other NEA committees is taken into account and not duplicated;
- enhance their efficiency by periodically reviewing the structure of their subsidiary bodies in light of the Agency's Strategic Plan and Programme of Work and co-ordinate their meetings with those of other international organisations; and
- ensure that the Programme of Work, in their respective areas, is established and carried out in a manner that is consistent with the NEA objectives set out in the Strategic Plan by monitoring activities, evaluating the level of achievement and reporting to the Steering Committee every year.

C. Cross-cutting issues

A number of NEA activities are cross-cutting in nature and concern more than one of the sectors described above. These include, for example, follow-up to the Fukushima Daiichi accident, human aspects of nuclear safety, stakeholder involvement, knowledge management and data preservation, infrastructure and education, and future research needs, and are updated annually in the NEA Committee Mandates and Structures document. It is essential to ensure that these activities are well co-ordinated within the Agency in order to address each issue to the best of the Agency's comprehensive abilities.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will ensure that methods for dealing with cross-cutting activities are clearly articulated in the Programme of Work and effectively co-ordinated in Agency practice, by:

- identifying cross-cutting issues in the biennial Programme of Work, including the relevant activities;
- applying the expertise of NEA staff and management to identify opportunities for horizontal interaction in the course of ongoing work activities and engage appropriate staff and committees as necessary;
- assigning the responsibility for cross-cutting issues to members of the NEA senior management to actively seek co-operation and co-ordination among the NEA staff and committees concerned;
- ensuring that the standing technical committee (STC) staffs, bureaus and chairs meet and interact as appropriate; and
- ensuring that the chairpersons of the STCs address the cross-cutting issues during their annual co-ordination meeting and encouraging them to meet bilaterally on that and other occasions to reinforce information exchange and co-operation.

V. Interactions

The field of nuclear energy is vast and complex. No single government body, international organisation or industry group can, by itself, provide all the necessary policy, regulatory, scientific and technical guidance needed to ensure the safe, environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Through its interactions, the NEA benefits from outside input and experience, and enhances the value of its work.

Authoritative, balanced NEA involvement in the international nuclear energy arena, drawing on the Agency's competence and experience, brings value to member countries. NEA participation in studies of other relevant organisations should be organised when appropriate, as should NEA exchanges with relevant sectors of civil society. Good co-operation and co-ordination with other international organisations results in greater efficiency by identifying areas of synergistic effort, clarifying roles and areas of focus, and helping to avoid duplication. The help of member countries is key to ensuring consistency and complementarity of the activities of the relevant international organisations when approving their respective programmes of work.

A. Working within the OECD family

The goal: *to bring NEA expertise and the results of its work into the broader energy, socio-economic and environmental OECD context and to help provide member countries with a consistent and balanced view on energy issues.*

Given the significant nuclear fuel resources available and the economic and environmental benefit nuclear energy can provide as an important low-carbon source of electricity and heat, a discussion of the contributions made by nuclear energy in the context of sustainable development has been taking place within the OECD, and needs to be continued and expanded. The case for nuclear energy as a potential contributor to the development of low-carbon economies will be robust if certain conditions are met to demonstrate that this form of energy is being properly managed. The NEA can provide the OECD with the necessary input on the various aspects of nuclear power for further analyses in a broad context.

More generally, the NEA will propose its participation in any OECD co-ordinating group in which the nuclear dimension and the Agency's experience might be beneficial, or when NEA activities can benefit from interaction with OECD experts in a broader context.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- interact with the OECD as a whole by, in particular, participating in cross-cutting work in such areas as green growth and the impact of market liberalisation;
- interact with the International Energy Agency (IEA) in clearly defined areas of competence by organising systematic cross-participation in the respective relevant committees and governing bodies, mutually exchanging analyses of common interest and developing joint studies and publications;
- interact with the Environment Directorate by exchanging analyses of common interest for incorporation in studies and work; and
- interact with the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI), the Trade and Agriculture Directorate, the Economics Department, the Directorate for Education and Skills, and the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate by participating in general debates of common interest and providing NEA expertise in the field of nuclear energy.

B. Working with other international bodies

The goal: *to ensure complementarity and increase synergy with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European Commission and other international bodies as well as to optimise resources, capitalise on NEA expertise and disseminate the results of NEA work to a wider audience.*

Various other international bodies work in similar areas as the NEA, although their objectives and membership are different. It is therefore important to co-ordinate efforts so that they complement each other, duplication of effort is minimised and the results are properly conveyed to other organisations.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- continue its co-operation with the IAEA by undertaking efforts to co-ordinate and consult as provided for in the existing Agreement between the two agencies, ensuring cross-participation in relevant committees and governing bodies and by undertaking activities, meetings and conferences jointly in appropriate areas and thereby ensure efficiency, effectiveness and the greatest value for NEA member countries;
- enhance interaction with other relevant international organisations, such as the World Health Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labour Organisation, as appropriate, and with other bodies on a case-by-case basis; and
- enhance interaction with other groups by co-operating with the G20, international nuclear regulators and radiological protection groups and other bodies, on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, the Agency will continue to serve as Technical Secretariat for international bodies such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC) and the Multinational Design Evaluation Programme (MDEP), and in so doing ensure the complementarity of mandates between these bodies and the NEA.

C. Liaising with industry and other stakeholders

The goal: *to maintain contacts with industry and other stakeholders, and to collect and utilise relevant information and data in NEA work, as appropriate.*

NEA interaction with industry will be based upon the recognition that the NEA is an intergovernmental organisation. However, the liberalisation of electricity markets and the privatisation of production capacities (including as concerns nuclear medicine) are giving a major role to industry. Technical and economic aspects of nuclear power and health applications in the future are largely in its hands. Engagement with organisations such as the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) or the Association of Imaging Producers and Equipment Suppliers (AIPES) can provide important synergisms that benefit NEA member counties and the objectives they set. The NEA can benefit further from the contributions that such organisations may be able to provide to the work of the standing technical committees.

NEA interactions with civil society and other stakeholder groups are carried out in consultation with the member countries and in the context of the substantive activities described in the preceding pages. In this context, the NEA makes available a wide range of information products on its web pages and social media platforms.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- establish and maintain useful interaction with key organisations and groups in member countries, and other stakeholders at the international level, to explore appropriate co-operation and systematically exchange information;
- increase exchanges with industry that could be beneficial to NEA activities by encouraging industry participation in a task-oriented and flexible way, taking care not to enter into commercial activities but respecting competence of different actors, and by co-ordinating with member countries the appropriate participation of industry bodies in specific NEA activities, in general excluding regulatory activities;
- in consultation with the member countries and through the NEA standing technical committees and their working groups, provide fora for interactions with civil society and other stakeholder groups; and
- provide factual information and objective analyses to a diverse audience by producing publications, technical reports, policy briefs and other materials as useful, and disseminating this information widely in member countries and beyond.

D. Co-operating with partner countries

The goal: *to establish effective relationships with partner countries whose participation in the NEA programme can be mutually beneficial and can make a significant contribution to the Agency.*

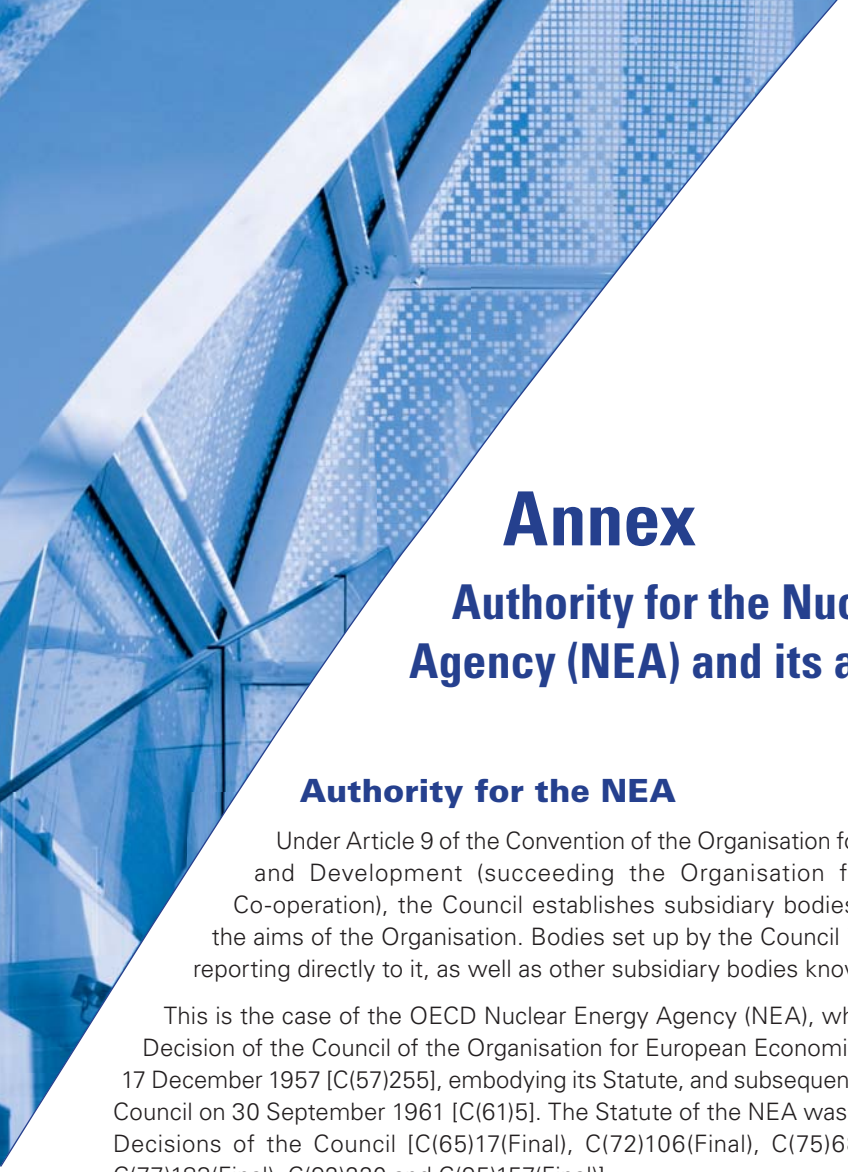
Additional countries are expected to apply for NEA membership in the future. It is recognised that new membership or outreach should provide significant added value to NEA member countries, provided certain conditions are met. Any proposal for co-operation or membership will be considered by the Steering Committee on the basis of a careful evaluation of potential mutual benefit and of possible impacts on the NEA's traditional strengths.

To achieve this goal, the Agency will:

- consider indications of membership interest by those countries that can provide significant added value to the Agency's activities;
- carefully analyse the credentials of non-member countries that indicate an interest in joining the Agency;
- evaluate a potential member according to criteria such as the nature and extent of its nuclear activities; its international commitments, especially regarding non-proliferation, and co-operative activities in the nuclear field; the organisation of its nuclear programme, including in particular the viability and independence of the nuclear regulatory authority; its domestic nuclear legislation; its resources, including whether it is receiving technical and financial assistance; its ability to provide technical specialists who can contribute to NEA activities; its contribution as a participant in NEA activities; and its approach to public information; and
- discourage membership applications from countries about which serious questions are likely to be raised with respect to the above criteria.

The NEA may also establish forms of co-operation with other countries which help the latter and provide added value to the Agency's programme, consistent with financial, political and practical realities and OECD policy on outreach, by:

- indicating openness to involving on a step-by-step basis selected countries with good non-proliferation credentials, particularly those that are significant players in the nuclear field and that can provide added value to the Agency's activities, taking into account OECD accession and partner country priorities, budgetary constraints affecting the Agency and the anticipated abilities of countries to contribute to NEA activities and finance their own participation;
- assisting member countries in their efforts to improve nuclear practices in non-member countries;
- working with the IAEA in areas where non-member countries can benefit from co-ordinated action by the two agencies;
- developing co-operation with China and other select strategic partners on a step-by-step basis, with a view to achieving mutually beneficial results; and
- exploring the potential for mutually beneficial co-operation with India on nuclear safety initiatives and other areas, as appropriate.



Annex

Authority for the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and its activities

Authority for the NEA

Under Article 9 of the Convention of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (succeeding the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation), the Council establishes subsidiary bodies for the achievement of the aims of the Organisation. Bodies set up by the Council include main committees reporting directly to it, as well as other subsidiary bodies known by other names.

This is the case of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), which was established by a Decision of the Council of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) of 17 December 1957 [C(57)255], embodying its Statute, and subsequently approved by the OECD Council on 30 September 1961 [C(61)5]. The Statute of the NEA was amended by subsequent Decisions of the Council [C(65)17(Final), C(72)106(Final), C(75)68(Final), C(76)172(Final), C(77)183(Final), C(92)220 and C(95)157(Final)].

The Statute (Article 1.b) sets out the purpose of the Agency as follows:

"Taking due account of the public interest and mindful of the need to prevent the proliferation of nuclear explosive devices, the purpose of the Agency shall be to further the development of the production and uses of nuclear energy, including applications of ionizing radiations, for peaceful purposes by the participating countries, through co-operation between those countries and a harmonization of measures taken at the national level."

Authority for the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy

The Statute (Article 2) establishes the authority for the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy as follows:

> *"The tasks assigned to the Agency shall be carried out, under the authority of the Council, by the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy, by the bodies which the latter has established... to assist it in its work or perform tasks of common interest to a group of countries, and by the Secretariat of the Agency which shall form part of the Secretariat of the Organisation."*

In addition, Article 3 of the Statute specifies that:

> *"The Steering Committee shall be competent to deal with any question relevant to the purpose of the Agency under conditions resulting from the provisions set forth below and from other applicable decisions of the Council."*

Authority for the NEA standing technical committees

The creation and the terms of reference of such committees is dealt with under Article 12.a of the Statute:

> *"The Steering Committee may establish such commissions and working parties as it may consider necessary to assist it in the performance of its duties and entrust them with the execution of any task relevant to the purpose of the Agency."*

The mandates of the NEA standing technical committees are approved by the Steering Committee.

Authority for the Data Bank

The Data Bank was created by decision of the Steering Committee on 7 December 1977 based on Articles 5.b and 12.b of the NEA Statute. At the same meeting, the Steering Committee adopted its terms of reference [NE(77)28].

Authority in respect of NEA main areas of activity

The NEA areas of activity are based on three articles of the Statute:

Article 4.a

> *"The Agency shall promote technical and economic studies and undertake consultations on the programme and projects of participating countries relating to the development of research and industry in the field of the production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in collaboration with other bodies of the Organisation in matters falling within their competence."*

Article 7.a

"The Agency shall encourage the development of research into the production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in participating countries."

Article 8.a

"The Agency shall:

(i) contribute to the promotion, by the responsible national authorities, of the protection of workers and the public against the hazards of ionising radiations and of the preservation of the environment;

((ii) contribute to the promotion of the safety of nuclear installations and materials by the responsible national authorities;

((iii) contribute to the promotion of a system for third party liability and insurance with respect to nuclear damage;

(iv) ..."

Authority in respect of NEA joint undertakings

Article 5.a

"The Agency shall, where appropriate, promote the formation of joint undertakings for the production and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, endeavouring to secure the participation of the greatest possible number of countries."

Institutional documentation

The following institutional documentation is produced regularly by the NEA in respect of its programme, budget, results and committee activities:

- biennial programme of work and estimates of expenditure;
- reports by the Director-General to the Steering Committee (twice a year);
- annual report on the activities of the Nuclear Energy Agency;
- NEA section in the *OECD Annual Report*;
- *NEA News* magazine (twice a year);
- NEA brochure;
- NEA monthly e-bulletin.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The OECD is a unique forum where the governments of 35 democracies work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Commission takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Publishing disseminates widely the results of the Organisation's statistics gathering and research on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as the conventions, guidelines and standards agreed by its members.

This work is published on the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD.

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) was established on 1 February 1958. Current NEA membership consists of 31 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency also take part in the work of the Agency.

The mission of the NEA is:

– to assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

– to provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues, as input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy and to broader OECD policy analyses in areas such as energy and sustainable development.

Specific areas of competence of the NEA include the safety and regulation of nuclear activities, radioactive waste management, radiological protection, nuclear science, economic and technical analyses of the nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear law and liability, and public information. The NEA Data Bank provides nuclear data and computer program services for participating countries.

Also published in French under the title:

Le plan stratégique de l'Agence pour l'énergie nucléaire 2017-2022

Cover photos: Aerial view of Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant, United States (Fotowerkstatt); Steel storage canisters specially designed to prevent spontaneous nuclear fission during storage (SKB, Sweden); Deep geologic repository design, Canada (Ontario Power Generation); ATLAS Detector, Switzerland (CERN).

NEA publications and information

The full **catalogue of publications** is available online at www.oecd-nea.org/pub.

In addition to basic information on the Agency and its work programme, the **NEA website** offers free downloads of hundreds of technical and policy-oriented reports.

An **NEA monthly electronic bulletin** is distributed free of charge to subscribers, providing updates of new results, events and publications. Sign up at www.oecd-nea.org/bulletin.

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