

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Joint Statement
Second Executive Committee Meeting
Paris, France
01 October 2008

The second Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Executive Committee Meeting was held in Paris, France, on 1 October 2008, where ministers and other senior officials designated from the GNEP Partner States met to review and to discuss the ongoing GNEP activities, the results, and further steps to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a safe and secure, and transparent manner.

The Executive Committee welcomed 4 new countries to the partnership. By joining GNEP, these new partners affirmed the GNEP vision of the necessity for the expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes worldwide in a safe, secure and sustainable manner while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. They will clearly contribute to the broad range of nuclear power and energy sector experience to the partnership, increasing regional participation and adding diversity that will strengthen global cooperation on civilian nuclear energy issues.

The Members of the Executive Committee from the GNEP Partner States (herein after referred to as "Members") note that since September 2007 GNEP has grown from 16 to 25 Partners and more than 22 Candidate Partners and Observers. The Steering Group, which carries out actions on behalf of GNEP, and the two working groups, which carry out work in the areas of infrastructure development and reliable nuclear fuel services, each held two successful meetings and made significant progress.

The working groups are addressing two of the most timely and important issues facing the safe and secure global expansion of civil nuclear energy. This year, the working groups brought together a number of experts to identify the short and long-term challenges in their respective areas, defined near-term actions they can achieve and began initial activities.

The Infrastructure Development Working Group created a Resource Library which serves as an integrated source of infrastructure development references, programs, tools and pooled resources of GNEP Partners to meet the significant challenges facing countries developing or expanding nuclear energy programs. To meet these challenges, such as human resource development, the Partners encourage the sharing of educational resources, the promotion of technical educational opportunities and the establishment of new programs by which nuclear energy issues can be properly supported by trained, educated, and quality personnel. Feasibility studies have also been initiated for GNEP Partner States considering nuclear energy for the first time.

The Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group has analyzed the results of a survey on each partner country's legal and institutional frameworks to identify common practices and gaps needing to be addressed in moving towards comprehensive, reliable and safe, fuel service arrangements. The Working Group has also begun to focus on issues concerned with the back-end of the fuel cycle and the establishment of a schedule for conducting future activities.

At the meeting, the Members confirmed that GNEP, with its cooperative activities in the areas of infrastructure development, reliable nuclear fuel services and the promotion of research and development under existing and where appropriate, new bilateral arrangements as well as existing multilateral arrangements, can play an important role for achieving these common objectives.

Making nuclear energy more widely accessible to the international community in accordance with the principles of GNEP along with the effective implementation of other measures such as energy conservation, energy efficiency improvements and an increase in the use of renewable energy sources, will help lead to greater global energy security and sustainable economic growth through reduced global dependence on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions, an essential objective worldwide.

Furthermore, to support the peaceful use of nuclear energy globally in accordance with the GNEP Statement of Principles, the Members confirmed that the GNEP Partner States will work with the international community in a cooperative and positive manner, to:

- (1) Build global consensus that the expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a sustainable manner that ensures nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation/safeguards is an effective measure against global warming and contributes to the sustainability of energy supply, along with measures such as energy conservation, energy efficiency improvements and an increase in the use of renewable energy sources.
- (2) Establish global recognition that the generation of nuclear power is a low emitter of greenhouse gases and is an effective measure against global warming.
- (3) Pursue new ways to support nuclear energy projects through finance mechanisms.

The Executive Committee has instructed the Steering Group to act accordingly.

The Members noted that in order to meet the global challenge of addressing climate change while ensuring a secure supply of energy, it is essential to expand the peaceful use of nuclear energy in a manner that ensures nuclear safety and security and reduces the risk of nuclear proliferation. Nuclear power, proven to be a safe, reliable and low emissions energy source, is a component of the global energy mix that can contribute to a secure energy future. GNEP aims to ensure that the effort to help meet growing energy demand by the development of nuclear energy proceeds in a manner that ensures safety, security and non-proliferation/safeguards, while at the same time responsibly and safely managing all aspects of spent nuclear fuel.