



Report of the G7 Nuclear Safety and Security Group (NSSG) during the German Presidency in 2014/2015

Introduction

1. The Nuclear Safety and Security Group (NSSG), established at the Kananaskis Summit and responsible to Leaders, continues to provide technically informed strategic policy advice on issues that could impact safety and security in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
2. This is a report of the activities undertaken by the G7 Nuclear Safety and Security Group (NSSG) during the German Presidency of the G7 in 2014/2015. This report aims to provide an overview of the outcomes of the G7 NSSG activities during 2014 and in the first half of 2015.

Summary/Highlights

3. G7 members confirm that the group continues to serve a useful purpose in discussing and co-ordinating the efforts of G7 members concerning important nuclear safety and security issues.
4. During the German Presidency, the G7 NSSG elaborated messages on different topics of interest, including management of radioactive waste/ decommissioning and ageing aspects of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs). The Group emphasized also the importance of increased international practical cooperation, in close collaboration with the IAEA.
5. G7 donors, the European Commission and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) coordinated their support for further efforts to continue and finalize the internationally supported Chernobyl projects. At the Pledging Conference on 29 April 2015, G7 donors and the European Commission have pledged the total amount of 165 million Euros to the replenishment of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund. This was crucial for the EBRD's release of the full amount of 350 million Euro and other donor's contributions. Thus, the completion of the New

Safe Confinement (NSC) transforming the Chernobyl site into a safe condition is secured.

6. G7 members note and welcome the progress on the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety as well as the imminent finalization of the Report on the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP. G7 members aim to contribute significantly to the continued momentum in strengthening nuclear safety and radiation protection worldwide.
7. G7 members are committed to the Vienna Declaration of February 2015 as an important step to reinvigorate the principles of the Convention on Nuclear Safety to strengthen the global nuclear safety framework.

Outcomes

Management of Radioactive Waste/ Decommissioning

8. Radioactive waste comprises of a variety of materials that mainly result from the generation of electricity from NPPs but also from other uses of nuclear and other radioactive materials. Each type of radioactive waste requires a specific management approach that includes the implementation of required facilities to protect people and the environment.
9. Developing policies, regulations and strategies to maintain and improve safe, secure and sustainable radioactive wastes management, particularly long-term storage or final disposal is a challenge not only for the operators that have the prime responsibility for the safe management of their radioactive waste, and the national regulators and policy makers, but also for international and regional cooperation. Stakeholders and the public should be involved in decision making processes on nuclear waste management and decommissioning to the extent possible and the relevant information should be made accessible.
10. International cooperation between operators, between regulators, between public authorities and through multilateral peer reviews has proven to be an important pillar in the international nuclear safety framework. G7 members highlight the benefit of international cooperation for the development of the necessary competencies, such as the building of human resources, safety assessment methodology, disposal site characterization and financing of radioactive waste management.
11. Valuable tools to promote these aspects include the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management together with self-assessments and other multilateral peer reviews. G7 Members urge all countries that have or have planned the development of a nuclear programme to join the Joint Convention and recall their commitment to de-

fine and to implement, with a high level of priority, a policy to safely manage spent fuel and radioactive waste.

12. G7 members recognize that regular self-assessments, safety reviews and multi-lateral peer reviews play an important role in developing and exchanging experience and ensuring high standards worldwide and call for their widespread use.
13. Following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP, many countries carried out comprehensive safety assessments of beyond design basis accidents (“stress tests”) of their nuclear power plants. G7 members consider it important that countries that have nuclear fuel cycle facilities, that have not already done so, perform safety assessments such as stress tests, not only for NPPs but also for their facilities of the nuclear fuel cycle.
14. For the sake of transparency and confidence-building the conclusion of safety assessments and multilateral peer reviews should be made public.
15. As many NPPs will reach the end of their operation during the next 20 years, decommissioning is an increasingly important topic for governments, operators, regulators and industries. G7 members recall the importance of ensuring that adequate funds for the decommissioning of all civil nuclear facilities will be available at the time needed.

NPP’s safety in the light of Ageing

16. Ageing management for existing NPPs and other nuclear facilities is a challenge. G7 members recognize the importance of periodic and regular self-assessments, peer reviews and mechanisms such as the review meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), as well as further developed services of the IAEA, to improve nuclear safety through international cooperation.
17. G7 members are strongly committed to apply the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety endorsed by the contracting parties to the CNS on February 9, 2015, on principles for the implementation of the objective of the CNS to prevent accidents and avoid or mitigate possible releases of radionuclides. In particular, G7 members underline their commitment to regular peer reviews and, while respecting national competencies on nuclear safety, invite other countries to make a similar commitment and actively engage in self-assessments and peer reviews.
18. States considering long term operation have to ensure that the required safety level is maintained.

Chernobyl/EBRD

19. The G7 NSSG received updates from the EBRD on progress on the Chernobyl New Safe Confinement (NSC) and other projects delivered through the EBRD-managed Chernobyl Shelter Fund (CSF) and the Interim Storage Facility-2 (ISF-2) and other projects at Chernobyl delivered through the EBRD-managed Nuclear Safety Account (NSA), to both of which G7 members and the European Commission have been major contributors.
20. The G7 NSSG welcomed progress on the projects, notably the ongoing construction of the New Safe Confinement. The projects have reached an advanced state of completion but additional funds - in total 615 million Euros - are required to successfully complete the project. The G7 NSSG continued to closely follow the progress of the projects and is convinced that there is no responsible alternative to the completion of the Chernobyl Shelter project, which is now scheduled for November 2017.
21. G7 donors and the European Commission have traditionally taken the lead in raising funds for the Chernobyl projects. They remain committed to the common endeavour to convert the Chernobyl site into a stable and environmentally safe condition.
22. Therefore, G7 donors and the European Commission have decided to provide additional contributions to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund. At the Pledging Event on 29 April 2015, G7 donors and the European Commission pledged the total amount of 165 million Euros to the replenishment of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund. Additionally, other countries have pledged approximately 40 million Euros.
23. G7 Members and the European Commission thank again the EBRD and its shareholders for its contribution of 350 million Euros to bridge the financing gap, which will allow closing the Chernobyl legacy and demonstrating the sense of collective responsibility and solidarity with Ukraine. G7 Members and the European Commission will now work closely with the EBRD to reduce the remaining gap of approximately 60 million Euros.
24. This pledging conference for the NSC project must be the last and final one. The project must be completed within the agreed cost and schedule.
25. G7 members are confident that the EBRD and the Project Management Unit will ensure transparency and rise to this challenge, and we will follow the project with the greatest interest.

IAEA Action Plan

26. The G7 NSSG received regular updates from the IAEA on the progress made in delivering the objectives of the IAEA Action Plan. The IAEA highlighted the need for further action by the IAEA Secretariat, IAEA Member States, regulators and

operators to ensure that the objective of improving nuclear safety in light of the lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi NPP was met. G7 members remain committed to implement the IAEA Action Plan.

Nuclear Liability

27. G7 members note that nuclear liability is an important issue of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. G7 members recall the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of Nuclear Energy, the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, the Brussels Convention Supplementary to the Paris Convention, the Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention, and welcome the entry into force of the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. G7 members encourage all States to consider joining international nuclear liability instruments that address the concerns of all States that might be affected by a nuclear accident with a view to providing appropriate compensation.