

# **The Strategic Plan of the Nuclear Energy Agency**

**1999**

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## Introduction

The OECD has been engaged in the past few years in a process of reform to take account of the impact of globalisation on its Members' economies, and to allow for proper refocusing of its work, notably on the subject of sustainable development. At the same time, the Organisation's budget is being reduced as a result of budget pressures in Member countries, and priorities are being refined in line with new objectives. These developments are having an impact on the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

In the context of this OECD-wide reform, the Secretary-General established two high-level advisory groups, one on the environment and the other on nuclear energy, to advise him on the future role of the Organisation in these two areas. The group on the future role of the NEA delivered its report at the end of January 1998 and one key recommendation is the elaboration of a strategic plan for the Agency.

The recommendations made in the report served to stimulate a review of NEA goals, priorities, methods of work and products. This review has taken account of the recommendations in the report, the debate in the NEA Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy meeting on the report and written comments from Delegations, and the Long-Term Orientations previously approved by the Steering Committee. The review served as the basis for this Strategic Plan for the NEA, which has been developed to provide guidance to the Agency in planning its activities and implementing its programmes over a five-year period.

## An evolving context for the OECD

The globalisation of the world economy poses new challenges for the OECD. In this context, the Secretary-General has proposed that particular attention be paid to five main areas: macroeconomics and structural reform, unemployment and job creation, the electronic universe, sustainable development and relations with Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia (the "Big Five").

Achieving development under sustainable conditions in a global economy has become a major challenge, and an essential element in this strategy is the sustainability of energy supply. The objective is to maintain a broad range of energy options for the future and to reconcile long and short-term considerations.

The OECD is integrating these factors into its strategic approach, and drawing relevant conclusions for its structure, priorities and allocation of limited resources.

## An evolving energy context

The energy context in the OECD area is marked by a notable shift of emphasis by many players in the electricity sector from long-term to short-term objectives. Deregulation of this sector and privatisation are among the reasons for this trend.

From a short-term perspective there do not appear to be major threats to energy availability. Fossil energy is widely available and at relatively low prices. Natural gas is being increasingly used compared to oil and coal. Gas is cheap and producing electricity with gas results in lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than from other fossil fuels. Furthermore, restructuring of the electricity sector has led in some countries to increases in available generating capacities.

Over the longer-term, the choice of energy supply options will be limited. Energy and electricity demand will continue to grow in line with economic development and population growth. Stricter environmental policies will limit – at least in OECD countries – the expansion of fossil fuel use.

Whatever the energy policy choices of Member countries, the contrast between the short and long-term energy outlooks points to the need to focus attention on the security, economic and environmental objectives of energy policies in a sustainable development perspective.

## **An evolving nuclear energy context**

Today, nuclear energy accounts for 25 per cent of all electricity produced in OECD countries (17 per cent world-wide). Overall, operating nuclear power plants are providing improved performance, with decreasing operating costs and higher availability factors. Countries using this form of energy consider that when properly managed nuclear power provides economic and environmental benefits and has potential for very long-term use on a wide scale.

However, a number of issues which will affect the long-term use of nuclear energy need continuing attention. While the safety record is good in OECD countries, continued safety research is required and there is a need for a more stable regulatory policy framework. Some nuclear units will be retired in coming years and there is uncertainty about the competitiveness of future nuclear power plants. Promising approaches to the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel have been developed and work on them is continuing, but prototype disposal facilities for high level waste are needed. Government funding support for research has been seriously reduced and, in some areas, scientific and technical infrastructures are in jeopardy. Experienced professionals are retiring. Industrial skills and competencies are disappearing in some OECD countries. More generally, public and political acceptance of nuclear power remains limited.

Thus, given the current and potential future role of nuclear power as a significant non-fossil source of electricity, the challenge is to address these issues which may affect the continued availability of nuclear power, so that countries will be able to include it in their energy mixes in the future if they wish to do so, in particular to fulfil their commitments under the Kyoto protocol.

## **The evolving role of governments**

Governments increasingly rely on a competitive, free market to provide sufficient energy supplies at acceptable cost. But traditional government intervention to ensure energy security, to protect the environment, and to address market failures or barriers, can be expected to continue.

The deregulation of the electricity market and the privatisation of production capacities are having a major impact on this economic sector. While government planning of any energy supply option, including nuclear, would run counter to the current trend towards liberalisation and reform, governments will retain the key role of providing a stable policy framework within which the long-term issues of electricity supply can be properly addressed.

Governments have traditionally played a major role with respect to research and development in the energy sector in general and especially in the nuclear field. In addition to their key responsibility for licensing and controlling nuclear installations, governments will continue to have a role to play in maintaining and developing, directly or indirectly, a sound scientific, technical and legal infrastructure in this field.

## **The evolving needs of governments**

Many nuclear issues, such as safety, liability, waste and public acceptance, have an international dimension. In addressing these issues, governments can benefit greatly from authoritative international assessments and common understandings. Governments can also benefit from increased international co-operation to reinforce their efforts to maintain nuclear expertise and a sound scientific and technical infrastructure.

To prepare long-term orientations with respect to sustainable development, governments need commonly agreed, policy-oriented recommendations which integrate the nuclear dimension into a broader OECD context, while taking account of the advancement of nuclear technology as well as the homogeneity of economic and social approaches in OECD countries.

## **Role and Organisation of the Strategic Plan**

This Strategic Plan for the Nuclear Energy Agency is aimed at helping it to meet the evolving needs of its Member country governments in the nuclear field. It is organised as follows: the first section contains a Mission statement and general objectives; the second section focuses on basic areas of work or "strategic arenas"; the third section deals with interactions with organisations outside the Agency, including the OECD itself; the fourth section addresses relations with non-member countries; the fifth section focuses on the role of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy; the sixth section deals with the Agency's working methods; and the seventh section addresses resources. Authority for the Nuclear Energy Agency and its activities is presented in the Attachment.

# I. Mission of the Nuclear Energy Agency

## General objectives

To fulfil its Mission, the NEA:

will be a forum for sharing information and experience among Member countries and promoting international co-operation by:

- maintaining an efficient communications network among experts;
- facilitating the development of consensus positions, including "collective opinions", among Member countries;
- addressing emerging cross-sectorial issues, such as scientific and technical infrastructure;
- interacting with the main players in the nuclear community, as well as international organisations and selected non-member countries;
- organising co-ordinated research and exercises;
- sponsoring joint undertakings/projects;
- disseminating the results of its activities and transferring information to other international organisations and non-member countries.

will be a centre of nuclear competence which helps Member countries to pool and maintain their technical expertise and supports their nuclear policies by:

- reviewing the state of the art, documenting experiments and setting up databases;
- organising peer reviews;
- providing legal and technical advice;
- contributing to attract young scientists and researchers to the nuclear field.

will provide the Member countries and the other parts of the OECD with nuclear policy analyses based on its technical work by:

- contributing to the studies on broad issues, especially in the field of energy and sustainable development;
- taking into account societal issues and concerns of the public.

will be a key player in the nuclear community by:

- increasing and ensuring its visibility in Member countries and in the nuclear community, as an objective and non-promotional organisation;
- ensuring appropriate dissemination of the results of its work.

## *Mission statement*

In light of the different contexts described in the Introduction, the Mission of the NEA is defined as follows:

*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, as well as 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.*

## Basic areas of activities

The following basic areas of work have been identified: nuclear safety and regulation; radioactive waste management; legal affairs; economics, resources and technology; radiation protection and public health; nuclear science; Data Bank; and information and communication. These areas of work are considered as "strategic arenas" insofar as they represent the key areas in which the NEA has to fulfil its Mission cited above and they are addressed individually in this Strategic Plan. There are other areas of the Agency's work which are cross sectorial by nature such as decommissioning, scientific and technical infrastructure, economic deregulation. They are addressed in each relevant strategic arena but at some point in the future these areas may need to be treated separately. The NEA activities in the strategic arenas and their intended output are described in the biennial Programme of Work decided by the Council on recommendation of the Steering Committee.

The selection of the strategic arenas and their prioritisation is based on a careful evaluation of the needs in these areas at the international level, which include identifying common technical problems; improving databases for scientific, technical, regulatory, legal, economic and policy analyses; increasing understanding of regulatory, technical, economic and policy decisions and developing common approaches where appropriate; and shedding light on factors influencing the future prospects for nuclear energy. In addition, particular attention has been paid to the work of other international organisations and to the potential added value of the NEA, taking into account its strengths and its specificities, such as its membership, methods of work and structure, past experience and achievements.

The strategic arenas are presented in order of their current priority in Chapter II. There are, however, two activities which cannot be integrated into this sectorial ranking: the Data Bank, which acts as the reference centre for many NEA countries, and information and communication, which is an activity of a horizontal nature. For each strategic arena, an introduction, a general goal, and a series of objectives are set forth. The introduction states why the given area is a strategic arena, the goal sets out the general purpose of NEA work in this field, and detailed objectives are set out as well as the means to achieve them. These objectives provide guidelines for establishing and prioritising activities in the programme of work. Practical means to achieve prioritisation of these activities are given in Chapter VI.

## II. Strategic Arenas of Work

### A. Sectorial Arenas

#### 1. Nuclear Safety and Regulation

A large number of nuclear power plants and associated nuclear fuel cycle facilities will continue to operate in NEA Member countries. Maintaining high standards of nuclear safety and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of nuclear regulation are two interrelated goals to be pursued as essential requirements for ensuring that nuclear energy can remain a credible option for inclusion in the energy supply mixes of OECD countries. Past efforts in safety research and regulation have resulted in improved knowledge and understanding of plant behaviour, new procedures, better training, and changes in hardware and software, which have increased confidence in the safety of plant operation. Additional efforts are necessary to maintain performance and further improve it where possible, and to address existing and future safety and regulatory issues.

##### Objective 1

To ensure an effective exchange of safety information among Member countries, the Agency will:

- organise discussions on safety research issues, regulatory strategies, and operating experience, and on the implications of safety-related decisions;
- integrate the knowledge in specific technical or regulatory policy areas.

##### Objective 2

To identify generic issues and trends through exchange of data on safety-related operating experience and related analyses, the Agency will:

- collect information on safety significant events;
- produce detailed, generic reports on issues raised by analysis of operating experience;
- develop specialised databases to complement the safety significant events database and obtain information from them for use in probabilistic assessments;
- consider the human factor aspects of operating experience and stimulate research to improve understanding and permit modelling of human reliability.

##### *The goal*

*To assist Member countries in maintaining and further developing the scientific, technical and regulatory knowledge base required to assess the safety of designing, constructing, operating and decommissioning nuclear reactors and other civilian nuclear installations.*



### Objective 3

To assist Member countries in the resolution of safety issues, the Agency will:

- organise fora to discuss, and promote convergence on, key aspects of such issues;
- prepare state-of-the-art reports, technical opinion papers and collective opinions for technical specialists as well as decision-makers;
- organise International Standard Problems and similar international exercises to help Member countries validate major computer codes used for safety analyses.

### Objective 4

To promote, organise and co-ordinate internationally funded research projects, the Agency will:

- review, on a continuous basis, operating experience in order to identify potential problems requiring research;
- identify either deficiencies in the state of knowledge of, or uncertainties in, both the behaviour of reactor systems important to safety assessment, and of operators;
- identify, on the basis of defined needs, international research facilities to be used to perform the necessary research.

### Objective 5

To help maintain an adequate level of capability and competence in nuclear safety, the Agency will:

- review needs, identify critical areas, and define possible international approaches to the problem;
- assist Member countries in organising programmes to strengthen staff competence at national or international institutions.

### Objective 6

To obtain better understanding of national regulatory requirements, to harmonise regulations, and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory process, the Agency will:

- carry out comparisons of national regulations, and review and analyse regulatory experience and inspection practices in Member countries;
- help Member countries to establish liaisons between regulators, perform peer reviews and implement quality assurance programmes;
- analyse emerging research and regulatory issues such as ageing, safety margins, safety culture, quality of safety management, and the impact of deregulation of electricity markets.

## Objective 7

To promote co-operation with non-member countries with a view to advancing their nuclear safety technology and research and regulatory frameworks, the Agency will:

- progressively integrate Russian experts into activities, where their participation can be mutually beneficial or is in the broader interest of the NEA Member countries;
- seek opportunities to organise internationally funded research projects in Russia that are technically attractive and cost-effective;
- invite specialists from appropriate non-member countries to participate in selected activities when there is likely to be mutual benefit;
- stimulate safety research and organise, as required, seminars in non-member countries;
- make available for general distribution appropriate safety-related publications and reports.

## 2. Radioactive Waste Management

The safe management of radioactive waste arising from the generation of nuclear power is an essential aspect of nuclear power programmes. The nuclear community needs to build confidence that such waste can be managed in a safe, environmentally acceptable and economical manner. Significant technical progress has been achieved and considerable experience has been accumulated in NEA Member countries in waste processing, conditioning, storage, transportation, and disposal. Additional effort is required to better integrate into the decision-making process of radioactive waste management the technical advances, regulatory developments and societal aspects of disposal.

### Objective 1

To ensure the exchange of information and experience and increase understanding on management of long-lived waste, spent fuel and decommissioning waste, the Agency will:

- provide a forum for implementers and regulators on waste management strategies including issues relevant to the integration of technical and non-technical approaches;
- clarify the process of repository development as a basis for building confidence among technical bodies, decision-makers and the public;
- examine consistency with the principles and approaches adopted in the management of non-radioactive waste;
- identify and analyse emerging technical, policy, and regulatory issues.

### Objective 2

To elaborate waste management strategies, including regulatory approaches, the Agency will:

- review strategies adopted by Member countries and forge consensus views and collective opinions on technical and policy issues;
- review regulatory bases, requirements and criteria, and licensing processes, and propose regulatory approaches;
- develop methodologies for evaluating the long-term safety of repositories;
- organise peer reviews of national programmes for such activities as research and development, performance assessment and safety cases, as requested;
- prepare good practice documents.

### *The goal*

*To assist Member countries in the area of radioactive waste management, particularly in developing safe management strategies for spent fuel, long-lived waste, and waste from the decommissioning of nuclear facilities.*

### Objective 3

To increase scientific and technical knowledge for the management of radioactive waste, the Agency will:

- review the state of the art of scientific and technical bases of geological disposal concepts and decommissioning technology for nuclear facilities, identify areas where additional efforts are required and assist in the resolution of the relevant issues;
- promote co-operative efforts to compile internationally applicable data and information, and benchmarking exercises;
- promote joint technical initiatives in support of repository development and decommissioning technologies.

### Objective 4

To enhance co-operation with non-member countries with a view to promoting safe waste management practices and addressing current waste management concerns, the Agency will:

- progressively integrate Russian experts into activities, where their participation can be mutually beneficial or is in the broader interest of the NEA Member countries;
- co-ordinate NEA Member countries' efforts to improve waste management practices in non-member countries.

### 3. Legal Affairs

The existence of sound national and international legal frameworks is essential to the safe use of nuclear power world-wide. Nuclear laws, regulations and related international conventions have been developed in parallel with progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Efforts are required to harmonise national laws and regulations and understanding of their applications in view of their potential transfrontier impacts, and to promote more uniform implementation of the international Conventions on nuclear liability in order to facilitate international commerce in nuclear material and equipment.

#### Objective 1

To contribute to the modernisation of the international nuclear liability regime, the Agency will:

- support the efforts by Member countries to improve the international liability regime, in particular by revising the Paris Convention and the Brussels Supplementary Convention;
- foster progress toward a global regime to deal with liability and compensation for nuclear damage;
- assist the efforts by Member countries to address problems in interpreting and implementing the provisions of existing international instruments, including: the Paris Convention; the Vienna Convention; the Brussels Supplementary Convention and the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage.

#### Objective 2

To assist Member countries in the development and harmonisation of nuclear legislation, the Agency will:

- make available a pool of expertise to assist Member countries in the preparation and revision, as appropriate, of their national legislation;
- encourage the harmonisation of nuclear legislation with internationally agreed principles with a view to removing impediments to the use of nuclear energy;
- serve as a forum for the exchange of experience in this field within the nuclear community.

#### Objective 3

To gather, analyse and disseminate information on nuclear law, the Agency will:

- carry out detailed studies and disseminate practical information on nuclear legislation in general, and on nuclear liability and insurance systems in particular, through a programme of legal publications, information seminars and workshops.

#### *The goal*

*To foster the harmonisation of national legislation governing the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and in particular to contribute to the world-wide harmonisation of nuclear liability legislation and the strengthening of treaty relations among interested countries to deal with liability and compensation for nuclear damage.*

## Objective 4

To strengthen the international nuclear liability regime beyond the OECD, as may continue to be necessary, the Agency will:

- provide legal support, under the guidance of Member countries, to the national authorities of selected non-member countries without efficient systems, in particular in the field of nuclear liability and insurance, and compensation for nuclear damage;
- co-operate with the IAEA to that end.

## 4. Economics, Resources and Technology

OECD countries using nuclear power consider that this form of energy has demonstrated its utility as a reliable, economical and environmentally satisfactory source of energy. Its preservation as a credible option for the future is highly important for many Members. Up-to-date information and analysis of strategies, economics, technologies and resources are necessary for reaching understandings and decision-making. The merits of, and impediments to the use of, nuclear energy in relation to the formulation and presentation of energy policy need to be addressed in the context of evolving global issues such as sustainable development, climate change and regulatory reform of the electricity market. The outcome of this work is essential for Member countries and as an important contribution to the broader debates in the OECD framework concerning energy and sustainable development issues.

### Objective 1

To support the role of government in preserving a long-term option for nuclear development and use in the context of increased competition in the electricity market, the Agency will:

- analyse the effect of increased competition in electricity markets on the evolution of scientific, technical and industrial nuclear infrastructure;
- assess the requirements for infrastructure such as specialised expertise and facilities required to maintain the nuclear energy option;
- assess economic and related technical factors that will influence decisions on plant-life extension or licence renewal and the impact that government policies might have.

### Objective 2

To secure the availability of technologies and resources necessary for responding to new requirements, the Agency will:

- review and evaluate new technical concepts for reactors and the fuel cycle, notably the back-end, and those concerning civil uses of nuclear energy in addition to electricity production;
- facilitate co-operation, as appropriate, in reactor and fuel cycle technology;
- identify the technological needs for various applications of nuclear energy and nuclear fuel cycle operations;
- assess uranium and isotope resources, production and demand.

### *The goal*

*To provide authoritative, reliable information on nuclear technologies, economics, strategies, and resources to governments for use in policy analyses and decision-making including on the future role of nuclear energy within the context of energy policies that contribute to sustainable development.*

### Objective 3

To assess the conditions and constraints affecting the use of nuclear energy to contribute to global energy and environmental objectives, the Agency will:

- elaborate scenarios for future application of nuclear energy that take into account the expected technical, political, economic and social developments that will constrain or encourage its use;
- provide in-depth analysis of parameters such as uranium requirements, electricity outputs, outputs of radioactive waste and gaseous and liquid emissions to the environment, and of the constraints on the use of nuclear power;
- study the potential effect on nuclear energy of the increased priority given to environmental protection as an energy policy goal;
- review the strategies of Member countries for decommissioning nuclear facilities.

### Objective 4

To maintain reasonably up-to-date information on all the economic aspects of use of nuclear energy, the Agency will:

- assess the developments affecting the cost of nuclear energy, including the associated externalities;
- provide or revise studies on nuclear costs in areas such as fuel cycle, waste management, and decommissioning;
- evaluate the economics of advanced nuclear fuel cycle and nuclear energy technologies;
- maintain competence in current costing methodologies and awareness of the development of relevant alternative methodologies, particularly those in use in other parts of the OECD.



## 5. Radiation Protection and Public Health

The protection of workers, the public and the environment from the deleterious effects of ionising radiation is a fundamental requirement of nuclear programmes. The system of radiation protection has evolved on the basis of scientific and technical studies and of experience from its practical application. The system will continue to evolve, taking account of progress in radiobiology and cancer research, and integration of societal issues into the decision-making process.

### Objective 1

To promote the exchange of information and experience in radiation protection, the Agency will:

- provide a forum for the exchange of information and experience in the development of radiation protection policy and in the application of radiation protection principles in Member countries;
- address those radiation protection considerations which provide input to strategies and decision-making in such areas as nuclear safety, waste management technology development and decommissioning;
- organise discussions and debates on various conceptual, technical and policy aspects of the system of radiation protection in the light of societal and technological developments, particularly in terms of the development and interpretation of international recommendations, and the implementational approaches taken in Member countries.

### Objective 2

To develop approaches for the efficient application of the system of radiation protection and to disseminate good practice, the Agency will:

- review and advance the state of the art in radiation protection research, regulation and application within the existing socio-economic context;
- review the various applicational approaches used by Member countries in order to identify common views, and to highlight good practice;
- identify emerging issues, scientific developments and technologies, and clarify their medium-term implications for radiation protection application and regulation;
- formulate consensus views and collective opinions on developing issues to assist Member countries in maintaining a common understanding of radiation protection and its basis, and in developing and implementing national and international radiation protection policy and standards.

### *The goal*

*To assist Member countries in the regulation and application of the system of radiation protection by identifying and addressing conceptual, scientific, policy, operational and societal issues in a timely and prospective fashion, and clarifying their implications.*

### Objective 3

To promote co-operation in the evaluation of nuclear emergency preparedness and occupational exposure, the Agency will:

- co-ordinate international nuclear emergency exercises, and analyse their results to assist Member and non-member countries in testing and improving the effectiveness of national and international emergency planning, preparedness and management programmes, communication and international emergency notification conventions;
- collect, manage and analyse occupational radiation exposure data from nuclear facilities in Member and non-member countries to identify trends and to facilitate benchmarking comparisons, and to promote the exchange of hands-on information and experience.

## 6. Nuclear Science

Research capability and technical expertise in basic disciplines such as nuclear physics, neutronics, actinide chemistry and material science are needed as a foundation for nuclear programmes. Present and future nuclear technologies – needed, in particular, for safety and waste management applications and to improve competitiveness of nuclear energy – will be better supported by improved knowledge in these areas. The active maintenance and the development of this knowledge in an international framework and the dissemination of the scientific results are becoming increasingly necessary at a time when several Member countries have had to limit their research activities in some areas due to budgetary constraints.

### Objective 1

To promote the exchange of information on strategies in the nuclear science area, the Agency will:

- provide a forum for reviewing trends in research and development;
- identify areas where there is a risk of decreasing competence;
- propose approaches for maintaining competencies and priorities for co-operation;
- review the need for educating new scientists in nuclear disciplines;
- foster interdisciplinarity.

### Objective 2

To identify the needs in nuclear science, the Agency will:

- assess the state of the art in basic nuclear disciplines supporting nuclear technologies;
- identify emerging issues and areas where additional efforts are required to expand and consolidate knowledge;
- review the scientific basis for feasibility and safety of new reactor, fuel, and fuel cycle concepts;
- review model effectiveness and the impact of uncertainties on basic physics parameters in order to provide guidance in safety and design margin assessment;
- identify areas where further experimental validation is needed and the type of experimental facilities and techniques required.

### *The goal*

*To help Member countries to identify, collate, develop and disseminate basic scientific and technical knowledge used to ensure safe, reliable and economic operation of current nuclear systems and to develop next generation technologies.*

### Objective 3

To promote international co-operation, the Agency will:

- review new concepts in nuclear reactor and fuel cycle physics;
- address emerging scientific issues, especially in support of nuclear safety, radioactive waste management, and improved competitiveness of nuclear energy;
- organise joint research projects and international comparison exercises;
- compile and disseminate experimental data generated by nuclear laboratories and industry (e.g. in the area of fuel performance).

## B. Data Bank

Computer codes and basic nuclear data are fundamental tools to analyse and predict phenomena in the nuclear field. It is essential that these codes and data be developed, improved, internationally validated and disseminated in order to become common tools for the international community. The NEA Data Bank, which co-ordinates these efforts for its Member countries, is the centre of reference in this field and provides services to national laboratories, universities, industry and other NEA activities as required.

### Objective 1

To be a central repository for its Member countries, the Data Bank will:

- compile experimental nuclear data needed by Member countries in their research activities;
- collect computer programs used in all areas of nuclear development;
- co-operate with national centres in the United States and with the IAEA;
- co-ordinate nuclear data measurement activities world-wide.

### Objective 2

To develop internationally validated computer programs and nuclear data, the Data Bank will:

- validate nuclear data and maintain the Joint Evaluated Fission and Fusion file (JEFF) as the reference nuclear data library, especially in relation to back-end fuel applications;
- co-ordinate nuclear data evaluation efforts world-wide, with the long-term goal of arriving at a single, internationally approved, data library;
- test acquired computer programs according to well-established Quality Assurance procedures;
- validate commonly used computer codes by conducting international intercomparison exercises;
- establish validated and documented experimental databases in fields of relevance to improved reactor operation, nuclear fuel development and waste management.

### Objective 3

To provide a direct service of the highest quality, the Data Bank will:

- make available internationally validated nuclear data and programs to all scientists in Member countries;

### *The goal*

*To be the international centre of reference for its Member countries with respect to basic nuclear tools, such as validated computer codes and nuclear data, and to provide a direct service to its users by developing, improving and validating these tools and making them available as requested.*

- provide universities with such services;
- develop and implement Quality Assurance procedures for the maintenance of the information as well as for the direct services;
- use efficient distribution tools, such as Internet and CD-ROMs, according to the demand in Member countries;
- provide services to non-member countries through co-operation with the IAEA.

### Objective 4

To assist Member countries in maintaining nuclear know-how, the Data Bank will:

- arrange seminars and courses to guide and assist the user community in the correct use of the most important computer programs and associated data;
- stimulate contacts between national laboratories, universities, and industry through their participation in international computer program and nuclear data validation exercises.

## C. Information and Communication

The dissemination of authoritative information and rigorous analyses in the appropriate circles is a key NEA objective. Improving the visibility of the Agency and its ability to convey the results of its work to Member countries contributes to the overall value of the Agency.

### Objective 1

To serve the major stakeholders with information and analyses, the Agency will:

- provide governments with its specialised, scientific, technical and economic output in a timely manner;
- provide the political decision-making circles and opinion formers in Member countries with analytical material and policy conclusions deriving from the NEA's specialised work;
- share with industrial circles appropriate information, with emphasis on economics, infrastructure, supply and demand, and long-term scenarios.

### Objective 2

To develop a diversified publications programme, the Agency will:

- provide the traditional range of publications and printed material designed to reach the target audiences described above as well as other potentially interested circles;
- develop new products (such as flagship publications, electronic publications and the NEA Web site) in order to meet evolving information needs and to improve efficiency of transmittal on a continuing basis;
- carry out marketing activities in Member countries, including publicising the results of the Agency's work.

### Objective 3

To increase its visibility, the Agency will:

- involve the NEA management in efforts to enhance the visibility of the Agency and its work in Member countries;
- increase participation of the NEA at the highest level in major international fora, within the OECD area and elsewhere;
- maintain exhibits at major international fora;
- maintain contacts with the media, as appropriate.

### *The goal*

*To provide Member governments and other interested parties with information resulting from the activities of the NEA and to enhance awareness and understanding of the scientific, technical and economic aspects of the nuclear option as well as awareness of the NEA itself.*

## Objective 4

To develop a new "corporate identity" for the NEA, the Agency will:

- present the NEA as an objective and non-promotional international instrument to advance co-operation in the safe and economic use of nuclear power among the most developed countries;
- present the NEA as a centre of reference and a repository of scientific and technical know-how and practices on nuclear energy;
- present the NEA as a source of qualified information, rigorous analyses, and policy advice on key aspects of nuclear energy, which has as one of its aims to contribute to broader OECD debates.



## III. Interactions

A more interactive NEA will allow the Agency to benefit more from outside input and experience, and to give full value to its work.

### Interactions within the OECD family

Given the large nuclear fuel resources available and the economic and environmental benefit nuclear power can provide as an important non-fossil source of electricity, a thorough discussion of nuclear energy in a sustainability context is required within the OECD. The case for nuclear energy as a contributor to sustainable development will be robust if certain conditions are met to demonstrate that this form of energy is properly managed. These include economic competitiveness, good safety of plant operation, satisfactory control of radioactive emissions from nuclear facilities, safe management of radioactive waste, avoidance of the spread of nuclear weapons and better public acceptance. In these areas the NEA can provide the OECD with the necessary input for further analyses in a broader 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.

#### Objective 1

To interact with the OECD as a whole, the Agency will:

- participate in horizontal work of the Organisation in such areas as sustainable development;
- contribute to preparation of OECD Ministerial meetings and appropriate OECD fora.

#### Objective 2

To interact with the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Agency will:

- pursue co-operation on the basis of respective independence and clearly defined areas of competence which are conditions for the objectivity of analyses carried out by the two agencies;
- organise systematic cross-participation in the relevant IEA/NEA committees, including the IEA Governing Board and the NEA Steering Committee;
- integrate the relevant IEA analyses of the global energy context into NEA work;

#### *The goal*

*To contribute to the OECD debate on global issues, such as sustainable development and regulatory reform, to bring NEA expertise and the results of its work into the broader energy, socio-economic and environmental OECD context and to provide Member countries with a consistent and balanced OECD view on all energy forms including nuclear energy.*

- provide the IEA with relevant input concerning nuclear technology, nuclear policies and the constraints on nuclear deployment, for incorporation into its broader energy studies;
- develop joint studies and publications on topics of common interest, particularly when joint work can create synergy and give more value and credibility to the analyses of both agencies;
- reinforce co-operation when defining the scope and timing of future work of mutual interest.

### Objective 3

To interact with the Environment Directorate, the Agency will:

- provide input on the environmental aspects of nuclear energy to sustainable development studies;
- compare approaches on topics of common interest, especially long-term issues, from the technical, economic, and ethical points of view;
- contribute the NEA's expertise to work on hazardous waste management;
- contribute input for use in connection with work on non-nuclear environmental risk assessment and management issues so that radiation risks can be discussed in a broader context.

### Objective 4

To interact with the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) and the Economics Department, the Agency will:

- participate in general debates concerning science and technology, on subjects such as financing or public acceptability, and provide NEA expertise in the nuclear field;
- assure close co-operation with the DSTI in specific areas of common interest such as basic physics;
- co-operate with the Economics Department in relation to NEA economic studies, especially those concerning the deregulation of the electricity market.

## Interactions with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other international bodies

Some other international bodies work in many of the same or 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 and results are properly conveyed to other organisations.

### Objective 1

To enhance interaction with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the NEA will:

- negotiate and implement a memorandum of understanding to facilitate co-ordination with the IAEA and to formalise the mechanism under the existing Agreement between the two agencies, through the definition of criteria for their respective roles and functions, and stipulation of procedures to be followed.
- co-ordinate with the IAEA to maintain the complementarity of the two agencies' programmes, avoid scheduling conflicts, and benefit from the contributions of NEA non-member countries through the IAEA;
- invite experts from non-member countries, through the IAEA when appropriate, to participate in NEA activities, wherever the added value principle is met;
- undertake activities jointly with the IAEA, wherever appropriate, in such areas as the organisation of meetings and international conferences, the operation of the Incident Reporting System (IRS) and the Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE), and the organisation of the Uranium Group;
- disseminate and transmit the results of its work to the IAEA so that they can also be applied outside the NEA;
- seek the support of Member countries to help avoid unnecessary duplication in the agencies' programmes;
- assure cross-participation in the governing bodies and relevant committees of the two agencies.

### Objective 2

To enhance interaction with the European Union (EU), the Agency will:

- hold periodic co-ordination meetings and organise cross-participation in relevant activities;
- undertake activities necessary to help OECD Members benefit from the results of activities sponsored by the EU;

### *The goal*

*To ensure complementarity and increase synergy with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with other international bodies; to optimise resources, capitalise on NEA expertise, disseminate the results of NEA work to a wider audience, minimise overlap and avoid duplication.*

- help the EU to benefit from NEA results in its formulation of work programmes and policies and seek to benefit from relevant EU activities;
- provide technical and legal advice to the EU, particularly in the area of assistance to Central and Eastern European countries and the New Independent States (CEEC/NIS), as required.

### Objective 3

To enhance interaction with other groups, the Agency will:

- assist the efforts of the G-7 countries by undertaking specific tasks upon request, particularly as regards improving safety and strengthening the legal framework in the CEEC/NIS;
- co-ordinate with the G-24 efforts in the nuclear safety field.

## Interactions with industry

Industry is playing an increasingly important role in determining the future of nuclear power and the NEA can benefit further from technical contributions that it may be able to provide to the work of the Standing Technical Committees. However, NEA interaction with industry will be based on a recognition that the NEA is an organisation of Member countries which pay its costs and determine its programme, and that it is the Member country governments which ultimately will continue to determine the direction and programme of the Agency, including the appropriate degree of industrial involvement with the Agency.

### Objective 1

To establish useful interaction with key organisations and groups representing the nuclear industry in Member countries, the Agency will:

- identify the major international nuclear industry organisations and those in Member countries in order to explore appropriate co-operation;
- pursue regular or periodic meetings and agreements providing for the systematic exchange of information.

### Objective 2

To increase industry input to NEA activities which could benefit from such participation, the Agency will:

- encourage industry participation in a task-oriented and flexible way;
- co-ordinate with Member countries the appropriate participation of industry bodies in specific NEA activities, including the standing technical committees upon their approval, but in general excluding regulatory activities.

### *The goal*

*To recognise the benefits and role of industry as an important stakeholder in nuclear energy matters and utilise industrial expertise as appropriate.*

## IV. Relations with Non-Member Countries

It is recognised that new membership or outreach should provide significant added value to NEA Member countries in meeting their strategic objectives. Co-operation with non-members has to be consistent with financial, political and practical realities, and take into consideration OECD policy on outreach. Any proposal for co-operation or membership will be considered on the basis of a careful evaluation of potential mutual benefit and of possible consequences for NEA strengths.

### Objective 1

To keep the Agency's membership relatively small and homogeneous, the Agency will:

- seek to limit new membership to those countries that are "major players" in the nuclear field and that can provide added value to the Agency's activities;
- carefully analyse the credentials of non-member countries that indicate an interest in joining the Agency and, at the same time, pay particular attention to candidates that are already Members of the OECD;
- evaluate a potential member according to criteria such as the nature and extent of its nuclear power programme; its international commitments and co-operative activities in the nuclear field; the organisation of its nuclear programme, including in particular the viability and independence of the safety authority; its domestic nuclear legislation; its resources, including whether it is receiving technical and financial assistance, and its ability to provide technical specialists who can contribute to NEA activities; its contribution as an observer in NEA activities; and its approach to public information;
- discourage membership applications from countries about which serious questions are likely to be raised in respect of the above criteria;
- recognise that the NEA is in a period of transition which justifies a pause in new membership for three to four years.

### Objective 2

To establish effective relationships with non-members that can provide added value to the Agency's programme, consistent with financial, political and practical realities and OECD policy on outreach, the Agency will:

- avoid co-operating directly with countries that have not made a nuclear non-proliferation commitment, although co-operation with such countries through the IAEA may be appropriate in certain instances;

### *The goal*

*To establish effective relationships with non-members whose participation in NEA's programme can be mutually rewarding, limiting further membership to countries that can make a significant contribution to the Agency.*

- indicate openness to involving major non-member countries with significant nuclear power programmes and good non-proliferation credentials in its activities on a step-by-step basis, taking into account OECD non-member country priorities, budgetary constraints affecting the Agency, as well as the anticipated abilities of countries to contribute to NEA activities and finance their own participation;
- seek to establish more formal co-operation links with Russia in order to facilitate its participation in selected NEA activities at its cost, when such participation is of sufficient interest to the Agency;
- initiate contacts with China to explore possible co-operation on a step-by-step basis, consulting, as appropriate, with the Steering Committee.

## V. Role of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Energy

The Steering Committee's role is to ensure that the purpose of the Agency and its assigned tasks are carried out in conformity with the provisions of the NEA Statute and the decisions of the OECD Council and to assure responsiveness to Member countries. The relationship of the Steering Committee to the NEA Standing Technical Committees should be strengthened with a view to achieving a sharper focus on programme priorities and a closer evaluation of the Agency's outputs. Furthermore, extending the NEA's focus beyond specialist areas and playing a more policy-oriented role are new objectives for the NEA. The responsibilities and the working procedures of the Steering Committee should be adapted accordingly.

### Objective 1

To ensure that the NEA activities respond to the needs of Member countries, the Steering Committee will:

- review the evolving situation in the nuclear field and the evolving needs of Member countries;
- define the Agency's programme of work and present it, along with a proposed budget for the Agency, to the Council;
- provide guidance to the NEA Secretariat and Standing Technical Committees to ensure proper focus on priorities and closer evaluation of the results of that work;
- periodically review Standing Technical Committees' mandates and ensure that they are adjusted to correspond closely to the overall objectives of the NEA programme of work;
- provide guidance to the NEA Secretariat on co-ordination with other parts of the OECD;
- provide guidance to the NEA Secretariat on relations with non-member countries, international organisations and industry;
- consider revisions to the Strategic Plan as appropriate.

### Objective 2

To assess and monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and of the programme of work, the Steering Committee will:

- review the Agency's annual status report from the Standing Technical Committees, and other relevant documents in relation to the outputs indicated in the programme of work, as well as other reports listed in the attachment;

### *The goal*

*To assure responsiveness by the NEA to Member countries' needs by carrying out assigned tasks in conformity with the provisions of its Statute and OECD Council decisions and by implementing new objectives reflecting the need for a strengthened policy role for the Steering Committee.*



- review the Director-General's report on budgetary matters relevant to the programme of work;
- review the report of annual co-ordination meetings of Standing Technical Committee Chairmen;
- review the Secretariat reports on NEA contributions to OECD horizontal projects;
- review the annual report on NEA co-operation activities with non-member countries.

### Objective 3

To pursue a more policy-oriented role for the NEA, the Steering Committee will:

- encourage each Standing Technical Committee to develop policy-oriented conclusions from its technical work;
- provide guidance to the NEA Secretariat on the Agency's input into horizontal policy discussions on energy and the environment in the OECD circles, including at ministerial level;
- formulate, as appropriate, official statements or opinions on nuclear energy policy questions as an NEA contribution to international discussions on sustainable energy issues;
- regularly invite high-level executives of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Environment Directorate and other parts of the OECD, as necessary, to discuss policy issues of mutual interest;
- periodically include on its agenda particular policy issues for consideration and organise, as necessary, special sessions to discuss them;
- entrust its Chairman or delegated representative(s), as appropriate, with the task of conveying NEA positions on policy matters to high-level international fora.

### Objective 4

To establish closer ties with the Standing Technical Committees, the Steering Committee will:

- arrange for each Standing Technical Committee chairman to report to the Steering Committee every two years on his/her committee's achievements and future objectives;
- arrange for all Standing Technical Committee chairmen to be invited to attend the Spring meeting of the Steering Committee during the year when the biennial NEA programme of work is being discussed;
- organise, as necessary, special sessions involving one or more technical committees to address cross-sectorial issues and to develop joint policy approaches and outputs in selected horizontal areas of the programme of work.

## Objective 5

To enhance the efficiency of its working procedures, the Steering Committee will:

- further rationalise and streamline the agendas of its semi-annual sessions, focusing on decision-oriented work and policy-oriented discussions;
- request its Bureau to undertake tasks delegated to them by the Committee, and to participate in the preparation of full meetings of the Committee, as appropriate, and in the follow-up of Committee decisions, in close co-operation with the Secretariat;
- establish rules and procedures for its Bureau;
- allow for more routine items or reporting to be handled by written procedure.

## VI. Working Methods

Efficient working methods are one of the NEA's strengths. Special attention will be paid to increasing efficiency, flexibility and responsiveness.

### Prioritisation of activities

The on-going process of reform in the OECD and budgetary constraints require the NEA to optimise the use of its resources so as to maintain its traditional strengths while responding to the changing global economic environment and the increasing need to address cross-sectorial issues. The strategic arenas identified to reach NEA general objectives must be given adequate resources, taking into account the prioritisation mentioned in Chapter II.

#### Objective 1

To ensure the transparency of the programme of work (POW), the Agency will:

- show a clear prioritisation of activities;
- provide a presentation of activities with their resource implications and expected output;
- provide improved status reports on on-going activities;
- indicate contributions to cross-sectorial issues.

#### Objective 2

To ensure an appropriate selection of activities, the Agency will:

- review annually the needs and results in each strategic arena, in co-operation with the Standing Technical Committees;
- analyse periodically the evolution of nuclear programmes in Member countries in order to identify the most important needs which can be met by the NEA;
- take account of activities performed by other international organisations and of available resources.

#### Objective 3

To benefit from Standing Technical Committee input, the Steering Committee will:

- ask the Standing Technical Committees to proceed with internal reviews of priorities, especially during the preparation of the programme of work;
- take appropriate action if, after internal prioritisation, it appears that a reallocation of resources is needed.

#### *The goal*

*To allocate resources in accordance with the Agency mandates and with the priorities given to the strategic arenas, taking into account proposals for extending the NEA participation in OECD horizontal activities and for becoming more involved in energy-related policy issues.*

## Role of the Standing Technical Committees

Composed of Member country experts, the Standing Technical Committees constitute a unique and important strength of the NEA, providing flexibility for adapting to new issues, and helping to achieve consensus rapidly.

### Objective 1

To foster international co-operation in the NEA strategic arenas under the guidance of the Steering Committee, with a view to developing common approaches and consensus, the Standing Technical Committees will:

- exchange information and experience through efficient networks of experts in their respective areas;
- identify and prioritise issues of common interest;
- propose to the Steering Committee the activities, appropriately prioritised, to be included in the programme of work;
- carry out the programme of work as decided in their respective areas;
- set up efficient means of co-operation and appropriate working structures;
- as appropriate, carry out common analyses, joint exercises, joint projects, peer reviews; set up databases; prepare state-of-the-art reports;
- prepare reports for, and make recommendations to, the Steering Committee, as necessary, in their respective areas of work;
- ensure the widest dissemination of the results of their work.

### Objective 2

To enhance their efficiency, the Standing Technical Committees will:

- review their working methods periodically and adjust them as necessary;
- review the structure of the committees and their working groups in light of the Agency's Strategic Plan and programme of work, and make adjustments as necessary to make it more efficient, flexible, and task-oriented;
- give special attention to their membership and work with the Member countries to obtain well-qualified experts;
- co-ordinate their meetings with those of other international organisations;
- request their Bureaus to undertake tasks delegated to them by the committees, and to participate in the preparation of full meetings of the committees, as appropriate, and in the follow-up of committee decisions, in close co-operation with the Secretariat.

### *The goal*

*To carry out the programme of work of the NEA in the strategic arenas, in support of its objectives, and to develop the basic strengths of the Agency as a key international instrument of co-operation.*

### Objective 3

To optimise co-ordination between them, the Standing Technical Committees will:

- organise an annual co-ordinating meeting between the chairmen of the standing committees with a view to addressing topics of common interest and planned activities, and avoiding duplication;
- co-operate through joint studies or joint groups, specially to deal with cross-sectorial issues;
- ensure that the existing expertise in the other NEA committees is properly taken into account;
- establish rules and procedures for their Bureaus.

## Secretariat efficiency

Improving efficiency is especially important in a context of zero growth or decreasing budgets. The OECD effort to reform its working methods and to improve its efficiency will continue to be pursued at the NEA level.

### Objective 1

To streamline the administrative procedures, the Secretariat will:

- develop further planning and accounting tools to increase and monitor the efficiency of administrative and budgetary procedures;
- pursue further decentralisation of services currently included within overhead charges paid to the OECD;
- explore possibilities of outsourcing services currently provided by the OECD.

### Objective 2

To benefit from the use of modern technologies, the Secretariat will:

- further develop efficient office automation services;
- reinforce the technical means to circulate and distribute documents in a cost-effective manner, including greater use of the Internet;
- develop video-conferencing and conferencing via Internet.

### Objective 3

To ensure that its structure is appropriate, the Secretariat will:

- adapt the structure to the requirements arising from the new NEA Strategic Plan, the structure of the Standing Technical Committees, and the need for increased horizontal interaction inside the NEA.

### *The goal*

*To promote continuous improvement in Secretariat efficiency.*

## VII. Resources

### Financial resources

Fulfilment of the objectives fixed by the Strategic Plan presupposes a stable and predictable level of financial resources together with their efficient use. Since 1995, the NEA has embarked on the process of a budget reduction of more than 12 per cent. The Strategic Plan is based on the hypothesis that NEA resources will be stabilised in the year 2000.

#### Objective 1

To consolidate the funding of its core programme, the Agency will:

- demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of NEA work to Member countries;
- base the NEA activities on a significant, well-defined and clearly prioritised core programme;
- seek medium-term commitments from Member countries, at national and OECD levels.

#### Objective 2

To seek additional sources of funding, the Agency will:

- encourage voluntary contributions from Member countries in support of activities contained in the programme of work;
- apply the concept of separately funded projects for specific and well-identified activities supported by a limited number of Member countries, without draining core funding;
- secure the NEA access to other OECD funds dedicated to horizontal activities, such as relations with non-members (CCNM);
- pursue the Agency's right to benefit systematically from sales of publications.

#### Objective 3

To maintain an efficient operational management of resources, the Agency will:

- enhance the new administration and management tools developed by the Agency to improve planning capabilities and the efficient use of resources;
- seek further transparency in support services provided to the NEA by the OECD and decentralisation of such support services and associated financial resources;
- seek economies by "outsourcing" for the procurement of specific services, where possible;
- seek flexibility in budget management.

#### *The goal*

*To ensure the efficient use of the NEA's resources and to maximise the resources available to the Agency.*

## Staff resources

Well qualified staff are essential to ensure that the Agency's work is of high quality. Special attention will be paid to the management of human resources at the Agency.

### Objective 1

To attract the best people, the Agency will:

- improve the visibility of the NEA as an attractive career move for high-level professionals;
- systematically advertise vacant posts in a wide range of circles;
- seek help from governments in finding the best-qualified people;
- implement a cost-effective consultant policy to complement Secretariat expertise in specific areas.

### Objective 2

To develop a high level of staff motivation, the Agency will:

- pursue enhanced communication between management and staff, including periodic meetings between senior management and all staff members;
- ensure that staff members are provided with opportunities for training and career enhancement;
- train managers to achieve and maintain staff motivation;
- establish better staff assessment methods in conjunction with the OECD and ensure feedback aimed at improving performance;
- provide a good system of rotation in the case of support staff.

### Objective 3

To make recourse to cost-free experts in a context of mutual benefit, the Agency will:

- provide the Steering Committee, once a year, with an indication of the specific areas of the NEA programme in which assistance would be useful;
- work jointly with Member countries to assess the potential of proposed candidates.

### *The goal*

*To assure that the NEA benefits from well-qualified and well-motivated staff.*



## *Attachment*

# Authority for the Nuclear Energy Agency 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 Council Decision of 17 December 1957 embodying its Statute, as amended by subsequent Decisions of the Council [C(77)183(Final)], C(92)220 and C(95)157(Final)].

The Statute (Art. 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

The Statute (Art. 2) sets out the Steering Committee 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."*

and Art. 2 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 Technical Committees

The creation and the terms of reference of such Committees is dealt with under the Statute (Art. 12.a):

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

The terms of reference of 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 (7 December 1977) based on Art. 5.b of the Statute. At the same meeting the Steering Committee adopted its terms of reference (Doc NE (77) 28).

## Authority in Respect of 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 the 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) ....."*

## Documentation

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

- Medium-term priorities.
- Yearly programme of work and estimates of expenditure.
- Reports by the Director-General to the Steering Committee (twice yearly).
- Annual reports by the NEA Standing Technical Committees on the status of their activities.
- Yearly annual report on the Activities of the Nuclear Energy Agency.
- NEA Chapter in the OECD Annual Report.
- NEA Newsletter (twice a year).

## ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Pursuant to Article 1 of the Convention signed in Paris on 14th December 1960, and which came into force on 30th September 1961, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) shall promote policies designed:

- to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living in Member countries, while maintaining financial stability, and thus to contribute to the development of the world economy;
- to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development; and
- to contribute to the expansion of world trade on a multilateral, non-discriminatory basis in accordance with international obligations.

The original Member countries of the OECD are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The following countries became Members subsequently through accession at the dates indicated hereafter: Japan (28th April 1964), Finland (28th January 1969), Australia (7th June 1971), New Zealand (29th May 1973), Mexico (18th May 1994), the Czech Republic (21st December 1995), Hungary (7th May 1996), Poland (22nd November 1996) and the Republic of Korea (12th December 1996). The Commission of the European Communities takes part in the work of the OECD (Article 13 of the OECD Convention).

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