

**NEA COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR REGULATORY
ACTIVITIES (CNRA) STATEMENT REAFFIRMING
GOOD REGULATORY PRINCIPLES**

31 July 2024

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RECOGNISING the Declaration¹ by 22 nations during the World Climate Action Summit of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) on the need to triple nuclear energy to achieve global net-zero greenhouse emissions and carbon neutrality by or around mid-century;

RECOGNISING that while some nations plan to maintain or expand nuclear energy production, others intend to phase out their currently operating nuclear power plants;

RECOGNISING that within specific national frameworks the license holder has the main responsibility for safely using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, which is also reflected in the nuclear industry's Pledge²;

HIGHLIGHTING the regulators' role to establish a framework that enables the safe use of nuclear technology requires considerable time and effort;

RECOGNISING that nuclear regulators make decisions consistent with their commitment to nuclear safety that are independent of their governments and national energy policies;

ACKNOWLEDGING the high expectations that various stakeholders have towards regulatory authorities;

RECOGNISING that increasing nuclear capacity implies not only the construction of new nuclear plants and the associated infrastructure but also the continued operation of existing nuclear power plants, those plants entering into long-term operation, the associated fuel cycle facilities, and decommissioning;

REAFFIRMING that regulatory authorities being properly resourced, having technically competent staff and being independent is critical to the safe, secure and environmentally sound deployment of nuclear power and to their ability to cope with forthcoming challenges;

RECOGNISING that growing nuclear capacity and capability will require for all parties concerned significantly increasing not only industrial capacity but also human capital in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM);

RECOGNISING that not only safety but also radiation protection, security, and safeguards are concurrently important to realising the peaceful use of nuclear power;

RECOGNISING that the issue of long-term storage and eventual final disposal of spent fuels and radioactive waste should be addressed in an integrated approach at an early stage of any nuclear power plant project;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the existing regulatory frameworks in many nations with mature nuclear industries are robust and built on decades of experience, research, and international co-operation;

1. US Department of Energy (2023), "At COP28, Countries Launch Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy Capacity by 2050, Recognizing the Key Role of Nuclear Energy in Reaching Net Zero", www.energy.gov/articles/cop28-countries-launch-declaration-triple-nuclear-energy-capacity-2050-recognizing-key, last accessed on 2 September 2024.

2. Net Zero Nuclear (2023), "Net Zero Nuclear Industry Pledge sets goal for tripling of nuclear energy by 2050" Net Zero Nuclear Industry Pledge, <https://netzeronuclear.org/news/net-zero-nuclear-industry-pledge-sets-goal-for-tripling-of-nuclear-energy-by-2050>, last accessed on 2 September 2024.

Thus, the CNRA calls for further strengthening co-operation among regulatory authorities to achieve their role to establish the framework that enables the peaceful use of nuclear energy more efficiently and effectively while safeguarding the safety of people and protecting the environment. In this spirit, CNRA members:

1. **COMMIT** to ensuring within each country's specific context that oversight of safety, radiation protection and security remains the primary mission of nuclear regulators to protect people and the environment, with the support as appropriate, of their technical support organisations;
2. **ENCOURAGE** continued collaboration in the development and maintenance of a strong safety culture within regulatory bodies and the nuclear industry including subcontractors within each country's specific context;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGE** that developing and maintaining competent human resources is fundamental for the effective regulation of the nuclear industry;
4. **CALL ON** their respective governments to be provided with the staffing and budget resources necessary to be able to address forthcoming challenges;
5. **CALL ON** their respective governments to take into account the impact on regulatory authorities when making decisions or changing directions regarding their nuclear programmes;
6. **ENCOURAGE** the consideration of ways to modernise regulatory frameworks and assessment processes for licensing and oversight activities to facilitate timely, efficient, and robust regulatory decision-making;
7. **ENCOURAGE** the responsible adoption of new technologies into regulatory processes, with appropriate governance processes, to take advantage of technological advances when they appear to increase effectiveness, efficiency and accuracy of regulatory oversight;
8. **COMMIT** to applying operational experience and knowledge to decision-making that affects safety when evaluating requests for long-term operation of existing nuclear facilities beyond current licensing limitations;
9. **CONTINUE** to share insights and lessons learnt from regulatory reviews and oversight during design, construction, commissioning, and safe operation of new reactors;
10. **AGREE** on the importance of working collaboratively to share experience, challenges and their knowledge on new and innovative technologies;
11. **ENCOURAGE** nuclear regulators, technical support organisations, academia, research organisations and wider stakeholders to work together and with international organisations, such as the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the development of safety assessment and licensing practices, and technical, policy and regulatory positions to enable efficient and effective regulation, and to support the safety and security of nuclear installations;
12. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the importance of working with embarking nations as they develop their regulatory and technical infrastructures necessary to establish strong and independent regulators that foster a robust safety culture balanced with the role of enabling the safe use of nuclear technology;
13. **ENCOURAGE** designers and applicants to engage with regulators proactively in the design process and to submit designs, safety cases, and other relevant information that are sufficiently complete and mature to be able to provide early feedback on the submitted design from a regulatory perspective;
14. **PROMOTE** open and transparent exchange of views to build and maintain trust with stakeholders, including industry, academia, NGOs, and the wider public, in a manner compatible with their respective national contexts and regulatory frameworks;

The CNRA will align its work with the above principles and will work with other international organisations to support regulatory readiness for the safe use of nuclear technology.

