





# IAEA

*Ahead for Peace: The First Half Century*

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الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية  
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 International Atomic Energy Agency  
 Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique  
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Dear Chairman Klein,

I wish to thank you for the kind reception that you, the other Commissioners and the staff of the NRC provided during my visit on 31 August. The information that was provided was most beneficial to me in understanding your and your Agency's vision for the future; additionally, the wonderful lunch that we had together allowed for an open and productive sharing of ideas.

As we agreed, I have prepared a summary of my view concerning Stage 2 of the Multinational Design Approval Process (MDAP). In addition to the development process by which this project historically evolved, the proposed Terms of Reference (which are supposed to be approved at the upcoming meeting of the core group countries) provide numerous supporting points for my thoughts. Therefore, I would like to offer the services of the IAEA as a co-Secretariat for Phases 2 and 3 of the MDAP. Both organizations should be fully coordinated and supportive of each others fields of expertise; likewise, both should be fully-endorsed participants in the MDAP process. Upon my return to Vienna, I received a letter from DG Echévarti inviting us to participate in the upcoming meeting of the core countries associated with MDAP. As we discussed, however, this invitation reiterated our *ex-officio* status in this meeting; additionally, both the agenda and the proposed Terms of Reference were developed without our substantive participation.

This is especially important, given the fact that the Programme has been expanded to include two new countries, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, as well as addressing the needs of developing countries, in general. The consequences of this strategic outreach, as well as the recent revitalization of interest from countries around the world to consider the nuclear option as a part of their national energy strategies, has resulted in the Goals and Objectives of Stage 2 of MDAP now being much more aligned to the Stage 3 vision.

As we conducted our initial review of the proposed Terms of Reference, it seemed that the earlier premises - to conduct a multi-lateral licensing initiative for the European Pressurized Reactor (Stage 1), to be followed by a more multi-lateral initiative that again focused on-sharing technical expertise during licensing initiatives (Stage 2), and then to extract the lessons-learned and develop an international design review process - have become intertwined. Examples include:

- Objective 1 - "Enable and encourage global use of standardized reactor designs". While this is certainly an issue of interest to the OECD countries, the global promulgation of safety standards and the assurance of their application is a statutory responsibility of the IAEA; thus, this objective would be best served by the full involvement of the IAEA.
- Objective 2 - "Facilitate the design reviews of reactors in many countries, including developing countries". The inclusion of developing countries in this objective will require new modes of cooperation that the IAEA is well experienced in providing.

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- Objective 3 - "Further public understanding of regulatory safety goals on an international basis". This objective is directly tied to the IAEA's responsibility to promulgate safety standards, especially with respect to the development, issuance, and application of the Safety Fundamentals and Safety Requirements. Proactive IAEA participation in meeting can only help in efficiently achieving this.

The IAEA is the organization through which such broad-based objectives can be achieved. Our international Safety Standards are the globally accepted tools for reference by which adequate level of safety are considered, especially in developing countries. Our international peer review missions have a history of bringing international experts together to share insights on the application of the Safety Standards. Our emphasis on field activities allows for an active sharing of experiences and insights, as opposed to those gleaned from meetings and workshops. Over the past several decades, we have had significant success with our design review efforts, most notably those associated with the safety assessment of WWER and RBMK designs and the variety of designs being built in China.

Recently, the IAEA has received requests from many countries to provide them guidance as to how best to consider whether or not to pursue nuclear power as part of their energy strategies. No matter how this focus on international applications has evolved, it is a reality. The expediency by which these requests are coming and the complexity of the issues associated with them makes it essential that we devote the necessary time now to assure that the MDAP programme is carefully developed and does not have to be reconfigured in the future. Such discussions would, I believe, be best served in a cooperative and mutually supportive environment that includes the NEA, the IAEA and the MDAP core countries.

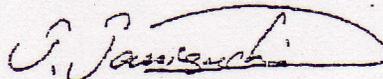
In developing countries, the perceptual difference between multi-national and international proposals is not insignificant. It is far better, therefore, to develop an initiative as important as this with all of the major concerned parties; in this way, the long-term goals of a world-wide convergence on acceptable regulatory practices, a global use of standardized reactor designs, and a public understanding of regulatory safety goals on an international basis can be embraced and achieved. This is the overriding benefit of bringing the two intergovernmental international organizations with nuclear interests, i.e., the NEA and the IAEA, into a mutually supportive relationship in the MDAP project at this time.

Thus, I believe that MDAP will be best served if the Secretariat's responsibilities for Stage 2 be equally charged to the NEA and the IAEA's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. Both of these organizations have vested interests in the success of the project. Neither of these organizations has exclusive dominion or authority over the tasks being considered. More importantly, I would suggest that we proceed slowly, so that the Terms of Reference and the associated implementation activities are pursued after an appropriate period of deliberation and reflection.

With a vision to the future and with the interests of a great number of countries considering implementing nuclear power as part of their energy strategies in mind, it seems only logical and proper to actively integrate the resources and talents of the NEA and IAEA, and for all parties to proceed in a considered and thorough manner. The most effective and efficient of solutions can then be achieved.

I look forward to our further discussion during the General Conference in Vienna and to the support of your staff during the 24 September meeting of the core countries' group in Paris.

Yours sincerely,



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