Perspectives on IFNEC's Past and Future

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IFNEC is Fundamentally Driven by the NPT Article IV-1

1. Nothing in this Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of this Treaty.

IFNEC is Fundamentally Driven by the NPT Article IV-2

2. All the Parties to the Treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Parties to the Treaty in a position to do so shall also co-operate in contributing alone or together with other States or international organizations to the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially in the territories of non-nuclear-weapon States Party to the Treaty, with due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world.

Driven By Two Presidential Visions: GNEP and IFNEC

"…we will develop and deploy innovative, advanced reactors and new methods to recycle spent nuclear fuel. This will allow us to produce more energy, while dramatically reducing the amount of nuclear waste and eliminating the nuclear byproducts that unstable regimes or terrorists could use to make weapons."

-President George W. Bush, February 18, 2006

"And we should build a new framework for civil nuclear cooperation… so that countries can access peaceful power without increasing the risks of proliferation."

- President Barack Obama, Prague, April 5, 2009

IFNEC Serves as Unique Forum

- Keeping focus on Article IV need to assist the peaceful expansion of nuclear energy: Existing NPP states helping newcomers.

- Assumes non-proliferation as a norm.

- Blends both government and commercial interests.

- Allows for policy discussion without obligation.

IFNEC Promotes Engagement

- Allows for engagement on
  - infrastructure,
  - safety,
  - financing, and
  - comprehensive approaches to the fuel cycle.
- Member initiatives can be shared and promoted—e.g., CFS and Joint Convention May 2012

CFS Enhances International Norms for the Safe Management of Spent Fuel

- The Joint Convention in its Preamble affirms the importance of international cooperation in enhancing the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms.

- EUROPEAN COUNCIL DIRECTIVE "Some Member States consider that the sharing of facilities for spent fuel and radioactive waste management, including disposal facilities, is a potentially beneficial, safe and cost-effective option when based on an agreement between Member States concerned"

- CFS reinforces the articles of the Joint Convention, including multinational arrangements, joint projects for spent fuel management, and return assurances for spent fuel.

Benefits of CFS to the Joint Convention

- CFS promotes global nuclear safety and security by minimizing the number of resources and facilities needed to manage spent fuel and radioactive wastes.

- For states with small nuclear power programs, a CFS arrangement could provide significant benefit by providing an alternative to developing a national program for long-term storage and disposal of spent fuel and radioactive wastes.

- In no case would CFS remove a state's responsibility to assure the appropriate management and ultimate disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste but would enable smaller states to pool resources or use the resources of state with larger programs.

Outcome of US Effort

- Mixed reviews- Objected by some European states, supported by new-comers, uncertainly in minds of many

- JC Parties agreed to hold special Topical Program meeting In Vienna in October 2013

What Next?

- Strong interest in continuing three fundamental areas:
  - Financing power reactors
  - Establishing fundamental infrastructure for new entrant countries
  - Regional spent fuel storage and take-back policies.
- Must transition to addressing the back-end.