

**Joint Communiqué
Roadmaps for Nuclear Event
Paris, France
September 29, 2023**

The future of nuclear energy is now.

The current global & geopolitical context has underlined more than ever the importance of ensuring resilient, stable, decarbonized and secure energy supplies. Security of energy supplies and affordable prices for people and businesses are top priorities on the agenda of leaders around the world as well as reaching the climate objectives established by the Paris Agreement.

Nuclear energy already plays a significant role in meeting climate goals and can play an even larger role in achieving global net zero emissions by 2050, consistent with the 1.5°C scenario and with the Paris Agreement. This ambitious objective can be realized through continued operation of existing nuclear power plants under the highest safety standards and large-scale deployment of new nuclear power plants. Achieving global net zero will require a significant increase in efforts in energy efficiency and energy savings, and the maximum use of all zero and low emissions energy sources towards achieving net zero outcomes, including both nuclear energy and renewable energy, to deliver both energy security and economic prosperity.

Nuclear power is a safe, affordable, dispatchable, and one of the low and zero-carbon energy sources that has contributed to the decarbonization of our economies for more than half a century and which currently supplies over 10% of global electricity consumed.

Securing the needed increase in global nuclear energy will require strategic international collaboration among like-minded governments as well as public-private partnerships and industry leadership. Governments, and industry must act now to create the best conditions for success, including enabling policy frameworks, regulatory pathways that accelerate innovation, supply chain readiness, diversified fuel availability, public engagement, and promoting financing.

Therefore, we, the Energy Ministers and heads of delegation¹ of Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Poland, Romania, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, The United Kingdom, the United States, gathered at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Headquarters in Paris, France on 28-29 September 2023,

Commending the solidarity expressed by Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States during the G7 meeting in Sapporo, Japan in April 2023 in supporting nuclear energy as a means to provide affordable energy that reduces dependence on fossil fuels, helps address the climate crisis, provides jobs and growth, strengthens global energy security while providing baseload energy and grid flexibility;

Responding to ongoing geopolitical threats to energy security by accelerating deployment of nuclear energy as a source of stable and resilient power and heat in support of the diversification

¹ Italy participated as an observer and did not take part in the debate or in the drafting of the Joint Communiqué

of supply for both OECD countries and for emerging economies seeking to develop new nuclear energy programs; and

With the goal to unlock access to significant amounts of capital at competitive rates to finance nuclear energy projects internationally.

We issue the following call to action and guiding principles in support of roadmaps for nuclear energy notably in view of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) to be held in Dubai on 30 November – 12 December 2023:

Nuclear Financing

We intend to explore innovative financing approaches, including public-private partnerships, to facilitate access to capital for refurbishment, long-term operation, spent fuel and waste long-term storage & disposal, and new nuclear build projects internationally while mitigating the economic costs of risk through public support mechanisms;

We encourage multinational development banks, international financial institutions and regional bodies that have the mandate to do so to, consider financing nuclear energy in light of energy access, energy security and climate priorities;

We encourage financial institutions to classify nuclear energy, as appropriate, with all other zero and low emission energy sources in finance taxonomies internationally; and

We call for greater inclusion of nuclear energy in the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies in the international financial system, considering that it is one of the zero and low emissions sources of power generation that can contribute substantially to climate change mitigation.

Policy and Regulation

We are committed to fostering international collaboration, sharing best practices, and exchanging knowledge to support the creation and maintenance of enabling policy frameworks, regulatory pathways, and codes and standards to enable nuclear energy deployment;

We intend to ensure safe and efficient waste management strategies by promoting the exchange of best practices, experience, and lessons learned for storage, transportation, reprocessing and recycling, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Research and Development (R&D)

We intend to continue to actively support and promote public research and development efforts related to safety issues, closing the fuel cycle, advanced innovative nuclear technologies, including SMRs, Generation IV reactors, and other advanced designs that offer enhanced safety, efficiency and sustainability as well as fusion energy including ITER's project.

Supply chains

We reiterate our commitment to fostering a balanced and predictable environment for nuclear trade and facilitating the smooth flow of goods, services, and products across borders of like-minded countries, consistent with our respective laws, regulations, and policies, thereby enabling integrated supply chains for the economic benefit of all our countries.

Fuel supply

We are open to exploring collaborations on strategic opportunities in uranium extraction, conversion, enrichment, and fuel fabrication to develop secure and reliable nuclear fuel supply chains for the operating reactor fleets and new advanced reactors.

Skills

We intend to consider the need for collaboration and investments in education and training programs to develop a skilled workforce capable of supporting the construction, operation, and maintenance of existing and new nuclear power plants, as well as dismantling and waste management, ensuring a sustainable talent pipeline for the global nuclear industry. We believe that an innovative, diverse workforce would support this agenda. As such, we are pleased with the work the OECD NEA has led reaching consensus among all NEA members on the important policy instrument, “Committing to Improve the Nuclear Sector’s Gender Balance.

Public engagement

We recognize and reaffirm the continued importance of public engagement with transparent, inclusive and responsible democratic decision-making processes in the development and deployment of nuclear energy projects backed by a clear safety framework considering best international practices.

Energy systems innovation

We are committed to promoting and incentivizing the deployment of hybrid energy systems, which integrate all zero emissions energy sources, including nuclear and renewable energy sources, to match the scale, speed, and resiliency needed for the transition to net zero.

We call for the recognition of the role that hydrogen from zero and low emissions sources, including nuclear technologies, can play in decarbonizing hard to abate industrial sectors, as a vector of energy transition, with positive effects on the cost competitiveness of the hydrogen market and supply chain.

International collaborations

Building on the success of the *1st Roadmaps to New Nuclear* meeting, we call on the NEA to coordinate with stakeholders in our countries to develop and support a network of industry leaders,

government officials, researchers, and experts as a practical, solutions-oriented approach to support decision-makers in maximizing the full potential of long term operation of large reactors, large reactors new build projects and development and deployment of SMRs for power generation and industrial applications. Recognising the urgency of this effort, we ask the NEA to proceed immediately and to provide a full progress report for delivery at the *2nd Roadmaps to New Nuclear* meeting in 2024.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned Ministers, pledge our commitment to nuclear energy and our ambition of moving forward with roadmaps for new nuclear projects, recognising their vital role in advancing climate action in the transition to global net zero emissions by mid-century.