

# International Ministerial Conference “Nuclear Power for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

Paris, 21-22 March 2005

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## *Draft Provisional Programme*

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### **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

1400-1600      Registration

### **Monday 21 March**

0800-0930      Registration and coffee

0930 – 10:30

#### **Opening addresses**

- Conference President (French Minister of Industry)
- M. ElBaradei, Director General of IAEA
- D. Johnston, Secretary General of OECD

10:30 – 10:45

*Coffee break*

10:45 – 12:15

#### **National Presentations [by Ministers]**

“Energy needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and country strategies to meet them.”

12:15 – 14:00

*Buffet lunch offered to the participants in the conference.*

14:00 – 15:20

#### **National Presentations [by Ministers] continued**

15.20 – 15:45

*Coffee break*

15:45 – 18:30

#### **Round table: World energy needs and resources and Environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

*Demand scenarios, resource assessments*

*Climate change*

*Role of nuclear energy and environmental issues*

18:30

*Cocktail Party*

20:00

*Official dinner for Heads of Delegations hosted by the French Minister of Industry*

### **Tuesday 22 March**

- 09:00 – 11:45 **Round Table: Driving factors for nuclear industry strategies and choices and Governance of the nuclear industry**  
*Economics, technology, policy goals*  
*Role of governments, Social acceptance*  
*Non-proliferation and physical protection*  
*International cooperation*
- 11:45 – 12:00 *Coffee break*
- 12:00 – 13:10 **National Presentations [by Ministers]**  
“Energy needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and country strategies to meet them.”  
Reflections on the Conference and the future
- 13:10 – 14:30 *Lunch break*
- 14:30 – 16:00 **National Presentations [by Ministers] (continued)**  
“Energy needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and country strategies to meet them.”  
Reflections on the Conference and the future
- 16:00 – 16:15 Closing remarks [Conference Chairman]
- 16:15 – 17:00 *Coffee break*
- 17:00 Press Conference

## DRAFT

Outline of each Round Table, issues expected to be addressed and possible brief for speakers.

**Round table 1:**        **Issue 1**  
***The world's energy resources and needs***

- How the nuclear power could answer to the 21<sup>st</sup> century world's energy needs?

The use of energy throughout the world continues to increase. Even if a large number of countries manage to adopt energy conservation policies, the world demand for energy will still increase dramatically as developing countries attain higher living standards. The resource availability, development of technologies as well as the realization of energy supply to meet international demands in a sustainable manner are issues that continue to remain open, as they are based on factors which are not easy to predict. These factors include the possible or even probable slowdown in the population growth, the economic growth rate of countries, the achievement of improvement in living standards in developing countries, the future cost of energy and its impact on consumption and availability of resources, the development of technologies for exploiting non-conventional resources, etc.

Even without a definite conclusion on the most optimistic and pessimistic analyses of future world and regional energy requirements, it has already become clear that the demand for primary energy, as far as it can be predicted, will increase significantly and can only be satisfied in the long-term by making use of all possible energy resources.

**Issue 2**  
***The environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century***

- How can nuclear power contribute to prevent climate change?
- How to manage radioactive waste?

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is facing new environmental challenges: These include a major risk of climate change, whose scope and consequences are unpredictable and irreversible; the lack of affordable energy leading to poor living conditions, poor sanitation and lack of potable water resulting in adverse health effects; and the need to find methods for treating industrial and societal waste in a safe and durable manner.

Will the development of nuclear power assist in providing solutions to these problems? What issues will be raised by the use of nuclear energy as additional environmental challenges? The potential environmental problems of managing the waste from nuclear programmes need to be offset against the environmental benefits of nuclear energy in reducing both carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels for transportation. These are relevant issues for discussion addressing how individual nations and international organisations should respond to these challenges effectively.

**Round table 2:**        **Issue 3**  
***Driving factors for nuclear industry strategies and choices***

- Economics
- Technology including safety: current and innovative systems

Nuclear energy needs to satisfy technical and economic requirements. These involve technology choices such as to what extent do we need technological breakthroughs and to

what extent do the current technologies satisfy the safety and resources demands. How will the nuclear industry manage the diversity of designs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

The nuclear projects are capital-intensive and accordingly what are the economic, technological and financial conditions for development of nuclear programmes in different countries?

**Issue 4:**  
**Governance**

- Role of governments, social acceptance
- Non-proliferation and physical protection
- International co-operation

The role of governments and international institutions, and how their roles will develop can be put together under the term “governance”. This has to be considered in the context of the following major issues:

- Institutions and national and international infrastructure for managing and supervising nuclear facilities.
- Security and protection against proliferation and terrorism
- Procedures for organizing the fuel cycle, liabilities, dismantling and waste management
- Nuclear and civil society: democracy and transparency in energy choices,