

## **GC 59 Senior Regulators' Meeting**

### **Session II on Ageing Management and Long Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants**

#### **Chairperson Summary**

- Based on the presentations and remarks provided by our group of experts, it is obvious that there are a number of challenges facing the world's ageing fleet of nuclear reactors and the regulatory oversight of their continued operations. Enhancement to safety is a continuous and on-going process, especially when existing operating reactors are approaching the end of their initial design life. Periodic Safety Review (PSR) is one of the safety assessment processes to be used for the continuous enhancement to safety in order to address the interconnected issues of ageing management and long term operation requirements.
- Regulators are not isolated from their governments. Government policies, as they pertain to the national energy strategy, impacts the requirements imposed by the regulator especially when the NPPs are approaching or are past their design life. Once the political decisions are made, the regulator should require operators to implement ageing management for the safe life extensions of existing power plants. At the same time, governments, regulators and operators are challenged by public acceptance of their decisions and must improve how risk and uncertainty are communicated to improve the public's understanding.
- Life extension of existing facilities should be based on regulatory requirements taking into account the most up-to-date standards so that these NPPs apply either new standards or the equivalent for new build reactors. The IAEA provides services focusing on the life extension and long-term operation of ageing facilities, such as SALTO and IGALL. States are encouraged to request these services which can lead to international benchmarking and the sharing of operating experience between regulators. The regulators must ensure that they are putting in place regulatory requirements based on modern standards and regulatory requirements to ensure a continuation of safety enhancements for the existing ageing facilities.