Cyber-Nuclear Forum Charter

Charter

The Cyber-Nuclear Forum (CNF) Charter outlines the CNF's mission, goals, governance structure, membership, and meetings.

Background

Addressing cyber threats is a top priority for the nuclear industry. However, effectively implementing cybersecurity measures to mitigate those threats poses unique challenges in a nuclear environment. While technical expertise is a foundational element for cybersecurity generally, the nuclear environment imposes additional, unique requirements. There are a limited number of experts in 'nuclear' cyber security. Access to this type of expertise is particularly challenging in countries without long-term operating experience, or without larger nuclear facilities. This challenge is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

Mission

The mission of the CNF is to support the mitigation of the risks of cyber attacks on nuclear facilities globally by providing nuclear operators with a venue for exchange of cyber security information and practices to enhance their knowledge and expertise. It does this while respecting States' sovereignty and international agreements for security, cyber security, and nonproliferation.

Goals

The CNF's goals include:

- Enhancing cyber security at nuclear facilities by supporting cyber-nuclear practitioners and raising awareness of best practices,
- Providing a venue and regular convenings to facilitate voluntary information sharing,
- Creating a network among technical/operation practitioners at nuclear facilities and organizations, and
- Providing a benchmarking opportunity for its members and the entire nuclear industry.

Enhancing cybersecurity at nuclear facilities

Nuclear operators recognize the need to enhance cybersecurity to mitigate the overall nuclear security risk. The CNF does this by raising awareness of best practices and providing a venue for voluntary information sharing. In doing so, the CNF and its activities, which are selected, developed, and executed by members showcase the commitment of the nuclear industry to this issue.

Providing a venue and regular convenings

Effective exchange of information requires regular convenings so as to develop relationships and to build trust. The CNF will meet at least twice yearly, at least once in person. In addition, there are multiple bilateral informal engagements as determined by the participants.

Creating a network

Cybersecurity practitioners at nuclear facilities have limited networking opportunities. The CNF provides a network for cyber-nuclear practitioners to enhance competencies, exchange ideas, and share best cyber-nuclear practices. Further, as appropriate, the CNF will encourage the creation of relationships that would allow members of the network to be called upon for advice, assessments, and/or to aid in response to a cyber-nuclear attack. All relevant arrangements and agreements related to these activities would be entered bilaterally between the individual member(s) and the beneficiary organisation(s).

Provide operating experience, benchmarking, and case studies

To strengthen cybersecurity at nuclear facilities globally, cyber-nuclear experts need access to relevant research and information. The CNF provides an opportunity for members to share operating experience, benchmarking analyses, and case studies of cybersecurity practices at nuclear facilities.

Governance Structure

The CNF's Governance Structure provides leadership and support for the CNF and is organized as follows:

Steering Committee

- The Steering Committee will set the goals of the CNF, and develop the overall strategy for the CNF, including:

    o Financial sustainability
    o Global outreach to engage members, and
    o Ensuring clear nuclear-cyber security outcomes.

- The Steering Committee will guide the CNF meetings and activities, including selecting a Chair and Vice-chair to lead the committee and be the primary liaison to the CNF Administrator (see below).

- The Steering Committee will appoint a **Chair**, who will:

    o Develop Steering Committee meeting agendas
    o Lead development of an annual plan for the CNF
    o Act as primary point of contact for other organizations.

- The Steering Committee will appoint a **Vice Chair**, who will:

- o Assist the Chair as required
- o Assume duties of the CNF Chair if the CNF Chair is unavailable.

- The Steering Committee will provide oversight of CNF's finances, including a review of the relevant financial audits to be provided by the CNF Administrator, and will periodically liaise with the CNF Administrator on financial matters.

- The Chair and Vice Chair shall each serve 3-year terms and can be reappointed. To avoid having the terms of the Chair and Vice Chair ending at the same time, the initial term of the Chair shall be no more that 2 years.

- The Steering Committee shall recommend and select meeting topics as well as ongoing workstreams.

- Membership of the Steering Committee will be on an individual basis. New Steering Committee members will be solicited from CNF participants based on their experience as leaders in the nuclear industry and their demonstrated contributions to the CNF (e.g., financial, 'in-kind' contributions, research contributions). Admission to the Steering Committee is confirmed by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

- The Steering Committee will have a maximum of eight members.

- Membership on the Steering Committee may be revoked by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

- Decisions of the Steering Committee will be by consensus or, when consensus is not possible, by a majority vote.

- The Steering Committee will meet at least quarterly.

CNF Administrator

- The CNF Administrator will actively work to achieve the strategic goals of the CNF.

- The CNF Administrator will provide the day-to-day and administrative functions for the CNF, including:

  - o Providing logistical support for the CNF meetings
  - o Keeping minutes of CNF meetings and copies of any materials presented
  - o Managing the CNF membership, and working with the Steering Committee, identifying new potential CNF members
  - o Overseeing and administering the CNF funds.

- WINS will provide the CNF Administrator function which may be provided by one or more WINS employees.

- WINS will be responsible for maintaining bank accounts and the disbursement of funds for approved CNF activities (see below).

- In addition to direct costs, WINS may charge a fee to the funders of up to 20% for indirect costs.

- WINS will obtain an annual independent financial audit and provide the results to the Steering Committee.

Membership

- Members may be either companies or individuals that are nominated by a nuclear facility, operating entity (e.g., nuclear utility, government-owned power plant, etc.) or industry-related research organization (e.g., national laboratory) and have formal job responsibilities that include cyber-security.

- Members are expected to actively contribute to the CNF by engaging in discussion and sharing knowledge to the extent possible having regard to their own organisation or state's information security framework.

- By accepting membership, members agree to abide by the Charter and its principles.

- Membership applications are approved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

- Membership is reevaluated by the Steering Committee on a routine basis, taking into account member's participation as well as ensuring that CNF membership maintains an appropriate geographical distribution, diversity and balance of incoming and returning members.

- Membership can be revoked at any time by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

Outcomes

Desired CNF outcomes (including meeting outcomes) will be developed by the Steering Committee and codified in an annual plan.

General CNF Meetings

Location

CNF meeting locations will be recommended by the CNF Administrator and approved by the Steering Committee. To the extent possible, meeting locations will rotate between geographic locations of CNF members, e.g., North America, Europe, and Asia.

Number of meetings

There will be at least two meetings a year, of which at least one will be in person.

Size

Unless otherwise decided by the Steering Committee, meetings will be restricted to fewer than 40 participants to promote member interaction and discussion. The meeting size will be reevaluated on an ongoing basis by the Steering Committee.

Non-member participants

- Non-member participants may be proposed by members and shall be approved by the Steering Committee.
- Non-member participation must be approved for each meeting and/or activity.

Language

English will be the official language of the CNF, including CNF meetings.

Other

Relationship to other organizations

The CNF is an independent network of nuclear operators. While independent, it strives to coordinate with other relevant organizations such as the IAEA, WANO, and WINS. As appropriate, the CNF aspires to be a resource for these and other organizations on cyber security at nuclear facilities.

Fundraising and expenses

- The Steering Committee, supported by the CNF Administrator, is responsible for fundraising activities to support the CNF.

- CNF funds may be used for the annual meeting venue and associated costs (e.g., meeting rooms, accommodations, meals for participants, program materials, etc.), and staffing costs to administer the CNF and other appropriate costs if approved by a majority of the Steering Committee.

- Members and participants will be responsible for their travel costs to and from CNF meetings.

- The CNF will not pay honorarium or speaking fees to members or participants.

- Upon request, the CNF may provide travel support for those members that are unable to secure support from their employer.

Legal standing

The CNF is currently an ad hoc group with no independent legal standing.

Amendments to the Charter

The Charter may be modified at any time by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.