NEA
NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

# Setting the context of the webinar

**Key points from the 3rd Stakeholder Involvement Workshop (SIWS), the path towards the 4th SIWS and webinar objectives**

**Thierry Schneider and Nadja Železnik**

**Chairs of the Extended Programme Committee for the Fourth SIWS**

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# Some key takeaways from the 3rd SIWS

- Stakeholder engagement in nuclear decision making should be implemented **as early as possible** and **whether or not it is legally mandated**, and should be **inclusive**.
- Holistic decision making is gained through involving a **diversity of stakeholders and perspectives**. Holism suggests to embed **cultural traits**.
- Decision-making process must be characterised by **transparency** (trust develops throughout the process).
- Stakeholder engagement, its limits and extent must be clear with **co-development being an efficient and morally justified approach**.
- Stakeholder involvement is not undertaken to obtain consent/acceptance for options and **must offer real opportunities to affect the decision**.

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# Some key takeaways from the 3rd SIWS

Collective agreement on **how disagreements will be handled** should be established early in the process.

The effective **balance of power** (of different groups) impacts the actual level of engagement, as well as the decision outcome. Decision makers should consider diversity of stakeholders and their capacity (both technical and financial) to engage in the process. Process arrangements must promote equality.

**Co-expertise**, i.e. experts, decision makers and community members working together, is the key for successful long-term engagement. Additionally, leveraging citizen science can support community-driven initiatives.

The ultimate goal of stakeholder engagement, depending on the specific circumstances, **is to enable people to make their own informed decisions** on what they view as a desirable outcome.

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# Some aspects requiring further discussion

- Accounting for cultural differences when drafting international guidelines on optimisation in decision making.
- Power imbalances in the decision-making process and their impact on optimisation.
- Achieving optimisation in practice and evaluating its significance across different contexts.
- More in-depth analysis of case studies to draw conclusions on optimization in decision-making.

Picture: 3rd NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop

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# Post-workshop Survey among Participants

## On areas for improvement to conduct such event

More in-depth conversations, a general sense that most of the discussions only superficially addressed the topics.

Interest in a framework that could offer a valuable tool for countries that may be less involved with stakeholders.

Increased representation of civil society and indigenous stakeholders from various countries.

More interaction, both between the audience and presenters, as well as among the participants at the tables.

Survey response rate: ca 30%

## Top actions the NEA could undertake to help guide decision makers in the nuclear sector towards 'optimised decisions'

Establish a mechanism for facilitating regular meetings with non-institutional stakeholders facing radiation-related situations.

Focus on specific actionable recommendations to enhance stakeholder involvement.

Develop overarching recommendations and supporting principles for designing decision-making processes that promote inclusiveness, holism, and sustainability.

Create a framework or best practice guidelines for countries to ensure comprehensive consideration of all stakeholders throughout a project's lifecycle.

Develop a high-quality workshop report containing a clear set of actionable steps.

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# Elements to consider for further work

- Maintain the momentum among stakeholders, which is key.
- Aim for more tangible outcomes, while supporting the continuation of the work.
- Continue to develop high-level guidance, structured into a flexible, customisable generic framework for optimising decisions across the nuclear sector, while turning the key takeaways from the workshop into actionable recommendations or tips.
- Continue different STC's work on more sectorial points (e.g. for CRPPH, via EGIR's proposal on optimisation of protection).
- Consider close interactions with the High-Level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, transparency and Social Sciences (HLG-SET) as this group could ensure that findings are translated into actions.

Picture: 3rd NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop

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# 4th SIWS Concept & Planning

**Workstream Objectives:**

1. Identify the guiding topic for the 4th SIWS to maximize its impact.
2. Analyze past and ongoing NEA activities in the area to embed the workshop topic and agenda in the overarching NEA stakeholder involvement strategy.
3. Plan and implement the 4th NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop.

**Envisaged Timeline:**

October 2024 – February 2025: Preparatory Webinars.

Fall 2025: 4th NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop.

**Suggested involvement of HLG-SET:**

- Work with EPC to advise on the guiding topic for the 4th SIWS and how to fit it best with overarching NEA priorities in the area.
- Regular participation of interested HLG-SET members in meetings for planning the workshop agenda.

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# Webinar objectives – Ensuring Balanced Power and Influence Among Stakeholders

Improve understanding of (power) imbalances that may occur when involving stakeholders in decision-making processes, and examine the implications for policymakers, regulators, and in particular, civil society, within the nuclear sector.

Identify the key contributors to power imbalance and the possible reasons for them.

The outcomes of the first webinar will inform discussions during the second webinar to be held online on **11 December 2024**, which will focus on how to mitigate power imbalances.

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# Ensuring Balanced Power and Influence Among Stakeholders

**Session 1:** Understanding and identifying Power Imbalance

*Lead thought: What has been your experience with power imbalances?*

**Session 2:** Identifying Issues and Challenges

Lead thought: *Identify key factors that have led to power imbalances and cases where such imbalances have hindered effective stakeholder engagement and optimal decision taking in the nuclear sector.*

**Session 3:** Rapporteur Delivery

*Opportunity for each group to deliver a recap of their discussion.*

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# Thank you for your attention

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