



**International Regulators' Forum**

## **Communiqué**

### **International Regulators' Forum 2024 Annual General Meeting in Dublin, Ireland Focused on Offshore Petroleum Safety**

**1 November 2024**

The International Regulators' Forum (IRF) provides international leadership on safety and safety-related regulatory matters for offshore oil & gas activities. The IRF held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) between 30<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024. The AGM was hosted in Dublin, Ireland by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and chaired by Australia's National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). Attendees, in-person and virtually, consisted offshore petroleum health and safety regulator leaders from IRF's 11 member countries – Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

After welcoming remarks by the CRU and the Chair, day one of the AGM commenced with consideration of Country Highlights of priorities, matters arising and regulatory change since the May 2024 IRF Mid-Year Meeting (UK led). Key topics included the expanding remit of IRF member duties, the challenges of encouraging timely decommissioning and pathways to establish financial assurance for industry liabilities. Offshore activity outlook across member countries and emerging trends of potential influence were also shared and discussed. Later sessions in the first day explored Energy Security, with emphasis on safeguarding of assets (USA led) and dived deeply into Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) case studies, referencing IRF regulatory experience to date (Norway and The Netherlands).

Day two of the AGM saw further shared insight from IRF members and sought to broaden this through engagement with other regulatory communities and the regulated industry. An update from the IRF's Offshore Renewable Energy sub-committee was provided, summarising implementation progress and the key priorities identified for working groups to move forward with. A joint session with the International Offshore Petroleum Environment Regulators addressed mutual interest topics such as ageing asset regulation and incident investigation best practice. To share industry perspectives, the AGM hosted representatives of global industry associations and a local operator - specifically the Association of International Oil and Gas Producers, the International Association of Drilling Contractors, the Energy Institute and Vermilion Exploration & Production Ireland Limited. The international associations presented an update on implementation of IRF Opportunity

Website: <https://irffshoresafety.com/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-regulators-forum>

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Statements (OS) within industry and a vision for practise improvement and continued alignment with IRF.

IRF Performance Indicator data across most IRF countries was closely reviewed (Canada led) noting that while fatality rates within submitted data show slow decline, injury, gas release, collision and well control incidents appear to have increased in recent years. This data concerns IRF and a workshop has been swiftly called to more fully understand potential context and the actions which may be required to address any underlying trends.

The IRF were presented with insights about Cumulative Risk assessment and application using an in-depth case study from the Corrib Field operated by Vermilion Exploration and Production Ireland Limited (Ireland led). Further industry engagement, opportunities for IRF-wide focus areas and IRF opportunity statement progress were discussed, noting that Well Control OS was agreed to be closed and that a new OS addressing FPSO Integrity was initiated (UK led).

Day Three, the final day of the AGM, further discussed status, experience and successful approaches regarding Decommissioning & Late Life Assets (USA led) before turning to planning and preparations for the 2025 IRF AGM and Conference. The 2025 AGM and Conference will be hosted by Canada in St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador, October 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> respectively. NOPSEMA (Australia) agreed to continue as IRF Chair through to the mid-year meeting of 2025 where future Chair will be discussed. SSM (The Netherlands) expressed desire to join the IRF management committee and HSE (UK) elected to make way for this.