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32^d ITER Council Meeting: ITER Project focuses on updated baseline preparation

ST PAUL-LEZ-DURANCE, France (22 June 2023) – The ITER Council has convened to review the performance of the ITER Project and efforts to update the project baseline. The Council received comprehensive presentations of the progress of construction, manufacturing, assembly and system commissioning. Council Members reaffirmed their strong belief in the value of the ITER mission and resolved to work together to find timely solutions to facilitate

At its thirty-second Meeting on 21-22 June 2023, ITER Director General Pietro Barabaschi reported on the progress of the ITER Project, reflecting the efforts of the ITER Organization (IO) and Domestic Agencies (DAs) to position the project for success and to instill a robust culture of quality and safety. The Council noted that component manufacturing and delivery, and system installation and commissioning have continued at a steady pace.

Updating the project baseline. Much of the discussion focused on the joint efforts of the IO, DAs and selected external experts to propose an optimized, reliable cost and schedule baseline for Council consideration. These efforts include:

- x Recovering from past delays incurred due to the COVID pandemic and technical challenges in completing First-of-a-Kind components
- x Finalizing strategies and supplier contracts for repetitive components;
- x Close and effective engagement with the French regulator, Autorité de sûreté nucléaire (ASN), regarding their questions related to the

installation;

- x Proposing a change to the plasma first
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Collectively, these efforts sustain ITER's role in the global scientific community while providing critical information to the burgeoning commercial fusion sector, as well as important safety regulatory insights and lessons learned. The Council will press the previously envisioned staged approach to safety demonstration to the regulator, and with these efforts, the Council will request the Director General to continue moving forward expeditiously with preparation of the updated project baseline proposal for review and approval in 2024.

