Director-General, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Mr Magwood took up his duties as Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on 1 September 2014. He has extensive experience in both the regulatory and developmental aspects of nuclear energy, including at the international level.

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From 2010 to 2014, he served as one of the five commissioners to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Prior to his appointment at the NRC, from 2005 to 2010 he provided independent strategic and policy advice to U.S. and international clients on energy, environment, education and technology policy issues. From 1998 to 2005, Mr. Magwood was Director of the U.S. Government’s civilian nuclear energy program at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). He was also actively involved in the work of the NEA, serving as a steering committee bureau member from 1999 to 2005, including a term as chair of the steering committee from 2004 to 2005.

Prior to his experience at the DOE, Mr. Magwood managed electric utility research and nuclear policy programs at the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, D.C., and was a scientist at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Magwood holds Bachelor degrees in Physics and English from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.

Director-General Magwood of the Nuclear Energy Agency will review the factors and considerations that have led to a surge in interest in nuclear energy around the world the likes of which have not been seen since the beginning of the nuclear energy era more than 60 years ago. While this interest and the plans and programs that it has spawned provide a clear and practical path toward enabling our societies to meet the goal of rapidly decarbonizing our economies, there are serious challenges that must be overcome. Director-General Magwood will highlight the issues that could lead to failure if not quickly and adequately addressed and to the structural barriers that will require new thinking by regulators and policymakers in many countries if success is to be in our reach.