



African Commission on Nuclear Energy

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Workshop on Promoting Effective Interaction Among Nuclear Industry and Regulatory Body in Countries Introducing Nuclear Power Programmes

AFCONe – IAEA Workshop

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Opening Remarks

Delivered by

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Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to Welcome All of You to this Important Workshop on “*Promoting Effective Interaction Among Nuclear Industry and Regulatory Body in Countries Introducing Nuclear Power Programmes*” organised jointly with the IAEA Nuclear Energy Department.

I would like to Thank the AUC Commissioner for Infrastructure & Energy Dr Abou Zeid Amani, the IAEA Nuclear Energy Division Director Madam Des Clozeaux, Dr Alexey Ferapontov the Deputy Chairman of the Federal Environmental, Industrial and Nuclear Supervision Service (Russia) and Dr Yau Idris, the Chairperson of the FNRBA for their Availability to Address the Meeting during this Opening Session.

I am grateful to all the Estimated Speakers for their kind cooperation and support.

I also thank all the Participants for their Interest to the Subject and their Participation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Supply of adequate, reliable, and affordable energy has direct implication in transforming Africa into a prosperous, peaceful, and integrated continent with dignified and happy people.

Supply of adequate, reliable, and affordable energy has direct implication in transforming Africa into a prosperous, peaceful, and integrated continent with dignified and happy people. Energy generation has social, environmental, and climatic consequences and the impact of climate change and environmental degradation is predicted to have more adverse effect on Africa and its enterprises. Therefore, the development of the energy sector must focus on clean energy.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has recognized that nuclear power can provide the energy to ultimately achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Nuclear energy promises to power Africa in realizing its developmental aspirations contained in Agenda 2063: it is clean, environmentally friendly, climate resilient and can provide adequate baseload for a combined electrical grid system of neighbouring countries.

More than 10 African countries are currently considering adding nuclear power into their generation mix and are at various stages of nuclear power infrastructure development. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is providing support through technical cooperation (TC) programmes. From 2013 to 2022, eight African



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countries have hosted the IAEA' Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and their follow ups.

Developing a nuclear power programme is a major undertaking that involves many complex and interrelated activities. Each nuclear power plant (NPP) project involves a commitment in the order of 100 years, through construction, operation, decommissioning, and waste disposal.

Experience suggests that the time from the initial consideration of the nuclear power option by a country to the operation of its first nuclear power plant is about 10–15 years for large NPPs.

Activities undertaken during this period include developing institutions, the legal and regulatory frameworks, safety and security culture, human resources, and financial and industrial support necessary to ensure that the programme is developed in a safe, secure, and peaceful manner.

The IAEA publication entitled *Milestones in the “ Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power”* provides the necessary guidance to Member States to properly plan their development, with due attention to the necessity of:

- i) building competent institutions.
- ii) enhancing human resources and infrastructure across a number of areas;
- iii) establishing an independent and effective regulatory framework; and
- iv) adhering to relevant international legal instruments.

An effective regulatory framework is essential to the success of a national nuclear power programme. It establishes necessary requirements, authorizes activities, and verifies compliance with safety, security, and safeguards requirements.

The regulatory framework needs to be developed and implemented in a phased approach to support the nuclear power programme.

In this regard, the sharing of practical experiences of Member States that have advanced through the process of embarking on a nuclear power programme is expected to benefit those Member States that are considering, or are in the planning phases of, such a programme.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This workshop plans to present the experiences of selected Member States in developing their regulatory framework for a new or expanding nuclear power programme, including the roles and responsibilities of the regulatory body and its organization and staffing; planning and issuing of regulations and guides; establishment of a system of licensing; and implementation of a siting, construction and commissioning oversight programme to respond to the needs of the nuclear power programme.

The purpose of this event is to support African Member States embarking on a nuclear power programme, through providing an opportunity for the exchange of information among countries as well as for learning relevant lessons from case studies and current practices.

The organization of the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt, will be an opportunity to promote nuclear power energy and the related nuclear safety standards and requirements.

In Conclusion Dear Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Estimated Speakers will Develop the Importance of the Subject and the Specific Recommendations related during these challenging times.

I would like to thank again the African Union Commission, the IAEA and the distinguished Speakers for their Support and Cooperation in Implementing this Programme of Activity.

I Thank You for Your Kind Attention and Wish You Fruitful Deliberations.

