

AFCONE



AFRICAN
COMMISSION
ON NUCLEAR
ENERGY

Unit B2003, Corobay Corner Building, 169 Corobay Ave,
Waterkloof Glen 0010 Pretoria, South Africa
E afcone.admin@afcone.org T 0027 (0)87 096 0175
www.afcone.org

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES
TO THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY
(TREATY OF PELINDABA)**

**ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
22-23 JANUARY 2024**

REPORT AND CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions:

1. The Fourth Session of the Fifth Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) took place at the Skylight Hotel Conference Centre, in Addis Ababa, from 22-23 January 2024. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP was held in accordance with paragraph 2 (b) of Article 12 and paragraph 1 of Article 14, which states that the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) shall convene conferences of States Parties on any matter arising from the implementation of the Treaty and that conferences of States Parties shall be held as necessary and at least every two years.
2. Further, the 4th Session of the 5th CSP was held in line with Resolution 2 of the 2nd Session of the 5th Conference of State Parties (CSP) to the Treaty of Pelindaba (17 – 18 May 2022); as well as the decision of the 3rd Session of the 5th Conference of State Parties (CSP) to the Treaty of Pelindaba (11 December 2023).
3. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP was officially opened by the Vice Chairperson of the 5th CSP Bureau, the Democratic Republic of Congo.
4. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP achieved the quorum and adopted the agenda.
5. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP was attended by the following States Parties: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
6. The Opening Session of the 4th Session of the 5th CSP received live statements from **H.E. Ambassador Bankole Adeoye**, AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, **Dr. Hubert Foy**, Director of the African Center for Science and International Security (AFRISIS), and a pre-recorded statement by **H.E. Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Closing remarks were presented by **Mr. Ferdinand Katendeko**, on behalf of the CEO of the African Peer Review Mechanism.
7. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP considered the requests from the Governments of Cameroon, Nigeria, and South Africa to postpone the current 4th Session of the 5th CSP to a later date in late February or March 2024 after the upcoming AU Summit. The Conference noted that the requests could not be considered in the absence of Nigeria and South Africa, therefore, the Conference resolved to defer the debate on this agenda item to the next Ordinary Session, and focus on the main substantive business of the 4th Session,

which was the review and adoption of the Budget and the Programme of Work for 2023-2024.

8. The Conference considered and adopted the report presented by the Executive Secretary on the operation of AFCONE and the status of the implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba for the period from (2022 – 2023).
9. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP reviewed the progress on the operationalization of the AFCONE Secretariat; the status of States Parties' contributions to the AFCONE budget; the implementation of the AFCONE programme of work for 2021 – 2023; and the report of the first independent financial audit in the history of AFCONE.
10. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP took note of the Annual Report of AFCONE presented by the AFCONE Executive Secretary on the activities of AFCONE, including the implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba during the period from July 2022 – December 2023.
11. The Conference congratulated the Secretariat for the vision outlined in the Strategic Plan.
12. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP welcomed the report by the Secretariat that State Parties are in full compliance with their non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty of Pelindaba.
13. The Conference emphasised the need for State Parties to support the AFCONE Secretariat to fully meet its mandate.
14. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP took note of the accumulation of arrears by some State Parties, and called on all States Parties to honour their financial obligations towards the budget of AFCONE, in order to enable AFCONE to effectively and consistently implement its programme of work.
15. The Conference and the Secretariat welcomed the proposal by Cameroon to allow State Parties to support the Secretariat through secondment of critical and strategic staff at the expense of the State Parties until a time when sufficient budget is available for direct recruitment.
16. The 4th Session of the 5th CSP reviewed and adopted by consensus the Budget (2023 – 2024), with a request to adjust it to reflect a 20% increase over the 2023 Budget. The Conference also adopted the Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027) and the Programme of Work (2023 – 2024). The Conference took note of Namibia's view that the 2023 status quo budget should have been maintained until such time that the 6th CSP had discussed the revised budget.

RESOLUTIONS & DECISIONS:

1. The Conference announced that the next Ordinary Session of the CSP (the Sixth CSP) will take place on 2-3 May 2024, in person, in Addis Ababa.
2. The Conference reiterated that the Conference of State Parties is the supreme governance and decision-making organ of the AFCONE, and stated that all requests for services from the AUC must first be approved by the CSP.
3. The Conference noted that only the Secretariat could use the letterhead (and logo) of AFCONE for correspondence and representation.
4. The Conference resolved that all communications concerning the CSP, the AFCONE Commission and/or the Secretariat should come from Secretariat and bearing the signature of the Executive Secretary.
5. The Conference instructed the Secretariat to develop terms of reference for certain strategic staff positions, and to contact State Parties to fill the positions through secondment, taking into account equitable geographical representation.
6. The Conference decided that the issue of sanctions on arrears of assessed contributions will be considered in the agenda of the 6th CSP in May 2024, and instructed the Secretariat to work with the AFCONE Special Envoy to reach out to State Parties in the meantime.
7. The Conference decided that an extraordinary session of the CSP will be held as soon as possible to amicably resolve discord between organs of AFCONE.
8. The Conference considered a motion to change the methodology for calculation of assessed contributions because it was resulting in high invoices to State Parties. The Conference decided to defer the matter to the 6th CSP.