



African Commission on Nuclear Energy

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***Promoting Effective Interaction among Stakeholders
in African Countries Introducing or Expanding a Nuclear Power
Programme***

AFCONE – IAEA Workshop

29 - 30 June 2021 13h – 16h 00 (GMT+2/ Pretoria Time)

Opening Remarks

Delivered by

*Messaoud BAALIOUAMER,
Executive Secretary of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy*

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Excellencies, Official Government Representatives,

Excellency Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, AUC Commissioner Infrastructure and Energy

Distinguished Mr Dohee HAHN (IAEA/ Nuclear Energy Division Director)

Distinguished Speakers and Panellists,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to Welcome All of You to this Important Event on Nuclear Power and Stakeholders Involvement organised jointly with the IAEA Nuclear Energy Department.

I would like to Thank our Guests, in particular Her Excellency Dr Amani Abou-Zeid, AUC Commissioner Infrastructure and Energy and Mr Dohee HAHN (IAEA/ Nuclear Energy Division Director), for their Availability and Acceptation to Address the Meeting at the Opening Session despite their Busy Agenda.

I also thank very much all our Estimated Speakers for their kind cooperation and support and all the Participants for their Interest to the Subject and their Contribution.

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.

However, 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.

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 national and combined electrical grid system of neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has recognized that nuclear power can provide the energy to ultimately achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). *Ref: (Ramp up nuclear power to beat climate change, says UN nuclear chief | | UN News) (Nuclear power and climate change | IAEA) (Nuclear energy and climate change - World Nuclear Association (world-nuclear.org) (Nuclear Power and Climate Change (oecd-nea.org) (IEA presents energy roadmap to net zero by 2050 : Energy & Environment - World Nuclear News (world-nuclear-news.org)*

In Africa, nuclear power is currently part of the energy generation mix in South Africa Only.

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 programmes. From 2013 to 2019, seven African countries (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, and South Africa (an operating country) have gone through IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and follow ups. A Follow-up INIR mission took place in Kenya this month (8-11 June 2021). A new one is planned during Q2/ 2021 in Uganda.



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Numerous AU Member States are Signing Cooperation Agreement with Important Nuclear Technology Providers in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, including Nuclear Power.

The Current Development of Small and Modular Reactors (SMR) Technologies are considered by Several African Countries as the Optimal Solution for them (among them Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the biggest challenges that nuclear power programmes face is securing and effectively sustaining the support of key stakeholders, including the public. This is in particular applicable to countries considering a possible role for nuclear power in their energy mix to ensure energy sustainability and enhance economic and industrial development.

Embarking on a nuclear power programme requires years of preparatory work and long-term national commitment throughout the development, construction, operation and, ultimately, decommissioning, of nuclear facilities.

Allow me also to remind the Dec 2020 STC Subcommittee Energy and STC Ministerial Declaration:

o The Meeting adopted a declaration which stipulates in particular the following: “ *Welcomed the progress achieved by some Member States in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technologies including for nuclear power generation and called for the strengthening of cooperation between the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other AU Strategic Partners in the development of safe, secure and peaceful nuclear programmes in Africa*”

o The Expert Meeting of this Sub Committee recalled the African Union AU EX.CL/Dec.339 (X)/2007, (DECISION ON THE HIGH-LEVEL AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TO PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT) and recommended the following:

AFCONE, AUC and their Strategic Partners in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the AFRA Agreement and the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA), to promote the development of safe and secure peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including nuclear power, in Africa for sustainable development; and AFCONE to reactivate and support the African Network for Enhancing Nuclear Power Programme Development (ANENP).

AFCONE is undertaking during 2020 – 2021 different Actions in the field:

o AFCONE Organised a Successful Meeting on 10 December 2020 with the AUC Infrastructure & Energy Department and the IAEA untitled “*Safe and Secure Development of Nuclear Power Programs in Africa: Development of Clean Energy, Mitigation of Climate Change Impact and Set Up of Appropriate Regulatory Framework*”.

As a Follow Up:

o We are organising today in cooperation with the IAEA this 2 day workshop entitled “ *Promoting Effective Interaction among Stakeholders in African Countries introducing or Expanding a Nuclear Power Programme*” to support African Member States embarking on a nuclear power programme in

the (a) effective interaction between key organizations involved in developing nuclear programmes (b) transparent and inclusive engagement with internal and external stakeholders, and (c) development and strengthening of a nuclear safety culture.

The expected outputs of this Event are:

- Improved knowledge and understanding in the following areas:
 - * The IAEA Milestones approach and all 19 nuclear infrastructure issues as elements of comprehensive nuclear power programme governance,
 - * The importance of effective interactions between the relevant institutions to be established for a nuclear power programme and with all stakeholders, including the public,
 - * Organizing, strategy and planning for effective stakeholder engagement.
- Present Several Case Studies from African Institutions
- Reactivate the African Network for Enhancing Nuclear Power Programme Development (ANENP).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are strongly recommending to the AUC Infrastructure & Energy Department and to the African Member States Decision Makers the Following:

- ✓ Support the African Commission Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) Efforts to Promote, with the Support of the IAEA and AU Strategic Partners, the Development of Safe and Secure Nuclear Power in Africa,
- ✓ Develop an Common African Position and Strategy on Nuclear Power,
- ✓ Integrate Safe and Secure Nuclear Power Infrastructure in the African Union Commission Energy & Infrastructure Mid- and Long-Term Strategies and Flagships Programmes.
- ✓ Integrate Safe and Secure Nuclear Power and Nuclear Technology in the Agendas of the AUC – AU Strategic Partners Summits and High-Level Meetings/Conference and Forums for the Strengthening Capacity Building Support.

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

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