



African Commission on Nuclear Energy

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FIFTH (5th) CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP) TO THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE TREATY (TREATY OF PELINDABA)

**21 -22 October 2021
Pan African Parliament (PAP) Premises
Midrand/Johannesburg (South Africa)**

CONCEPT NOTE

I. BACKGROUND

1.The **Fourth (4th) Conference of States Parties (CSP)** to the Treaty of Pelindaba was held at the African Union Commission Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-15 March 2018, in accordance with Article 14 (1) of the Treaty, which calls for the organization of a Conference of all Parties to the Treaty shall be held as necessary and at least every two years and convened in accordance with paragraph 2 (b) of article 12.

The Parties elected, during the 2nd session of the 4th CSP (14 June 2018), with due regard to equitable regional representation, eleven members of AFCONe for a three-year period. These are: Algeria, Chad, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe. The CSP decided to renew the Call to East and Central Africa Region, under-represented in AFCONe, to submit additional candidatures to elect the 12th Commissioner.

2.Following the CSP, and in accordance with Annex III (1) to the Treaty, the elected members submitted to the Chairperson of the Commission the names and credentials of their Commissioners. These are:
Mr. Merzak REMKI of Algeria, Mr Senoussi Hadjaro ADAM of Chad, Mr Benjamin Jabez Botwe NYARKO of Ghana, Mr Adama Yoro SIDIBE of Mali, Mr Ahmed Bezeid DEIDA of Mauritania, Mr Rajcoomar BIKOO of Mauritius, Mr Colin O'Brien NAMALAMBO of Namibia, Mr Lawrence Anickwe DIM of Nigeria, Mr Doctor MASHABANE of South Africa and Mr Gatsha MAZITHULELA of Zimbabwe.

NB: Mr Abdelhamid MELLAH (Chair of the Algerian Atomic Energy Commission (COMENA) has been nominated on December 2019. by the Algerian Authorities as the new Algerian Commissioner.

3.The **9th Ordinary Session of the AFCONe** was held at the African Union Commission Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, on 8 & 9 October 2018, pursuant to Article 12(3) of the Treaty, which commits the AFCONe to meet in annual ordinary sessions.

The Session discussed various aspects essential to the effective operation of AFCONe; these relate to the Election of the AFCONe Bureau, the review of the 4th CSP conclusions and recommendations, the

operationalization of the Secretariat, the discussion of the AFCONE Vision, Strategy, Programme of Work and Partnership, the implementation of the 2018-2019 programme of work, the State Parties annual reports, the State Parties Financial Contributions and Arrears observed.

4. The Extraordinary Session (EOS) of the AFCONE was held in Algiers as planned on 12-13 February 2019, to mainly address two issues: Meeting on 12 February with Several AFCONE Partners and Celebrating on 13 February with Algeria the First Nuclear Tests held in Africa (Algeria Desert) on 13 February 1960 by a Foreign Country.

The Session addressed the following items: Operationalization of the Secretariat, 9th AFCONE Ordinary Session & Bureau Meeting Report, AFCONE Human Resources and Financial Policies, Status National Reports on the Provisions of Pelindaba Treaty, 1st Version of the AFCONE Strategic Plan, Cooperation Programme with the African Union Departments, Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization, AFCONE – Partners 2019 Regional planned Events, AFCONE Cooperation Program: Non-Proliferation & Disarmament & Other Issues, Implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty in the Indian Ocean & Canaries and the 5th Conference of State Parties (planned on S1- 2020).

5. The AFCONE Bureau Meetings held on 14 February 2019, 29-30 June 2019, 26-27 January 2020, and 22 August 2020 reviewed and approved the reports and documents submitted by the AFCONE Secretariat: Status of Execution of the Bureau Decisions, Operationalization of the Secretariat (Budget & Human Resources), Financial & Travel Procedures, 2019 Annual Report, Cooperation & Partnership Building...

6. The 10th Ordinary Session of the AFCONE was held virtually and organized from the AFCONE Premises in Pretoria on 25 & 26 February 2021 at the pursuant to Article 12 (3) of the Treaty, which commits the AFCONE to meet in annual ordinary sessions. The Session addressed the items: Validation of the AFCONE Bureau minutes, Preparation to the 5th CSP, Review and Adoption of the AFCONE Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and Internship Policies and Procedures, Review and Adoption of the Mid Term Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, Review and Adoption of the Draft AFCONE Programme of Work 2021- 2023, Review and Adoption of the Partnership Building and Resource Mobilisation programme, Adoption of the Operational and Programmatic Budget according to the Short Term Organogram during 2021 and consideration of the Gradual Implementation of the Long Term Organogram on 2022 and beyond, Continuation of the AFCONE Secretariat Efforts towards the Universalisation of the Pelindaba Treaty, Election of the incoming AFCONE Members, Preparation of the Call for the incoming Permanent Executive Secretary.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE 5th CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES:

1. The CSP will be held in accordance with paragraph 2 (b) of Article 12 and paragraph 2 of Article 14 of the Treaty, which state that AFCONE shall convene a CSP on any matter arising from the execution of the Treaty and that Conferences of State Parties shall be held as necessary and at least every two years.

2. The 5th CSP is expected to bring together countries of the Zone, the concerned extra- zonal countries and the relevant regional and international bodies to discuss and agree on matters relating to the implementation of the Treaty. In particular, the 5th CSP will:

a) Consider and endorse the documents and decisions adopted by AFCONE, namely:

(i) AFCONE 2018-2020 report

(ii) AFCONE Mid Term Strategic Plan 2021-2025

(iii) AFCONE Workplan 2021-2023

(iv) Budget of AFCONE for 2021-2023 and Scale of Assessment for Contributions to be paid by State Parties



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- b) Consider and endorse the Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) established and the Regional and Cooperation Programme & Activities developed,
- c) Consider and Endorse the AFCONE Policies & Procedures related to the Operationalization of the AFCONE Secretariat, including:
 - (i) AFCONE Travel and Financial Procedures
 - (ii) AFCONE Performance Management & Development System
 - (iii) AFCONE Internship Policy & Procedures
- c) Review the implementation of the Treaty and its Protocols and discuss issues of concern to the Zone.
- d) Elect the members of the incoming African Commission on Nuclear Energy
- e) Exchange on the preparation for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear-Weapons (NPT) and the position of the Zone on related developments.

III. PARTICIPATION

1. 42 States Parties are expected to attend and participate in all proceedings of the 5th CSP.

These are: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2. Thirteen (13) Signatory and non-signatory States in the Zone are expected to participate in open sessions of the CSP but not in the decision-making processes.

These are: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Liberia, Morocco, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra-Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

3. States Parties to the Protocols as well as States eligible to ratify the relevant Protocols will attend the open sessions of the meeting. These are: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and Spain.

4. The Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones, Regional and International Bodies and Organizations, AFCONE and AU Development Partners will be invited to attend the CSP as Observers.

IV. DATE AND VENUE

The 5th CSP will be held in Hybrid Format (In Person and Virtually) from 21 to 22 October 2021:

- **Physically** at the Pan African Parliament (PAP) Plenary Room, in Midrand. Johannesburg (Republic of South Africa)
- **Virtually** through Zoom Platform. *Details will be provided to the Delegates.*

V. CONTACT

All communications regarding the 5th CSP should be addressed to the Following Addresses:

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And

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For more information, please visit:

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