



African Commission on Nuclear Energy

Unit B2003, Corobay Corner, 169 Corobay Avenue, Waterkloof Glen, 0010
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Responsibilities and Capabilities of Owners and Operators for a New NP Programme

AFCONE – IAEA Webinar

Thursday - 24 February 2022 - 14h00 to 17h30 (Pretoria Time/ GMT +2)

Opening Remarks

Delivered by

Messaoud BAALIOUAMER,

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 New Event on “ Responsibilities and Capabilities of Owners and Operators for a New Nuclear Power Programme” organised jointly with the IAEA Nuclear Energy Department.

I would like to Thank in Particular Her Excellency, Dr Amani Abou Zeid, the African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy for her Personal Interest to this Important Subject and her Precious Time and Participation.

I also Take this Opportunity to Congratulate Ms Aline Des Clozeaux for her recent Designation as Director of the Nuclear Energy Division at the IAEA wishing her all the Success in her Important Position. I also thank Ms Des Clozeaux for her kind cooperation and support to this Event.

I am grateful to our Estimated Speakers and Moderators for their Appreciated Contribution.

I also thank all the Participants for their kind 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.

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

Agenda 2063 is the continent’s development agenda which seeks to transform Africa’s infrastructure, economy, and social well-being. Development of energy infrastructure is vital in delivering Agenda 2063 goals. In Africa, nuclear power is currently part of the energy generation mix in South Africa only.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has recognized that nuclear power can provide the energy to ultimately achieve most of the SDGs. About 12 African Countries are “interested” and engaged in nuclear power at 4 different levels (Expansion, New NPP, Advanced Preparation Programme & Consideration in the Energy Mix with Energy Planning Studies).

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is providing support through technical cooperation programmes. From 2013 to 2021, eight African countries have organized through IAEA INIR missions and their follow ups.

The AFCONE Started in 2019) informing and sensitizing the AU Countries during the AU STC held in Cairo, about the Situation in Africa, calling for the Integration of Nuclear Energy in the AUC Agenda.



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The AU STC Infrastructure & Energy recognized the AFCONE Role & Mission and Mandated the AFCONE Commission (30 November 2020-01 December 2021) to Promote & Develop Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (PUNE) including Safe Nuclear Power in Africa in close cooperation with the IAEA and Other AU Strategic Partners.

Other important regional players should be the AFRA Agreement and the FNRBA Forum, supported both by the IAEA. In Addition, I hope, the ANENP (African Network for Enhancing Nuclear Power Programme Development) will be re-activated very soon, in order to contribute to this Continental Effort.

The enhanced deployment of nuclear reactors in the African Union can become particularly relevant now with the promising new generations concepts and the strong rise of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

The International Energy Agency (IEA) asserted in its 2019 Report “Nuclear Power in a Clean Energy System” (Ref: [Nuclear Power in a Clean Energy System \(windows.net\)](#)) “ Nuclear power and hydropower form the backbone of low-carbon electricity generation. Together, they provide three-quarters of global low-carbon generation. Over the past 50 years, the use of nuclear power has reduced CO2 emissions by over 60 gigatonnes – nearly two years’ worth of global energy-related emissions”.

The Introduction of nuclear power in African needs to be further discussed at the AU Level by Experts and Decision Makers, including by considering the benefits presented by the Recent European Union Taxonomy Complementary Delegated Act (CDA) (related to nuclear contributions to the Green Deal) and analysing the contests & reservations made by several countries in Europe and the World.

We therefore invite from this tribune the relevant organs and regional organisations to consider the contribution of nuclear power, including within the 2021-2027 and Beyond “African Union Green Recovery Action Plan” (Ref: [40567-wd-AU Green Recovery Action Plan ENGLISH.pdf](#)). This will certainly be considered by the AU Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CHHOSCC).

The CAHOSCC, as you may know, convened on the 6th of February 2022 in preparation for the COP27 (Organized this Year in Egypt) and to deliberate on the outcomes of the Glasgow Climate Conference held in 2021 and the implications for Africa. As declared by His Excellency the Coordinator of the CAHOSCC during the recent AU Summit “ To achieve the expected results for Africa at COP27, it is imperative that we develop a strong and well-coordinated Common African Position, and that we formulate a set of robust key messages that encapsulate Africa’s aspirations” (Ref: [Statement by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Outgoing Coordinator of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change | African Union \(au.int\)](#)).

As you well know, the introduction of nuclear power production, both as clean and reliable energy source and as main contribution to mitigate climate change requires important and coordinated efforts at the national and regional levels. It is directly related also to electricity needs, grid capacity, energy security, nuclear safety, safeguards and security, radiation and environmental protection, opportunities for other spin-offs like desalination, hydrogen production, capacity building, having qualified nuclear regulatory authorities, dealing responsibly with nuclear transports etc...

All these programmes, managed at the national level or shared at the regional level, need Appropriate Infrastructure and Human Resources: It is obvious for all that to Sustain any Socio-Economic Programme, in particular through Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: Appropriate Competences in Number and Qualification are Needed !

In addition to the several african countries efforts, the IAEA initiatives and support including through AFRA and AFRA NEST, we have called for the creation of a Dedicated Institute for E & T in Nuclear Science & Technology within the Pan African University to Further Develop and Sustain the Programme. Several African Leaders in NST are Ready to Implement Such Action.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Returning to the Today Subject,

The development of a nuclear power programme is a major undertaking requiring careful planning and preparation. The introduction of nuclear energy into a country is accompanied by the need to build the institutional, human, and physical conditions to construct and operate a nuclear power plant.

A number of organizations will be involved, each with particular responsibilities and capabilities.

While the safe operation of nuclear power plant (NPP) relies on the establishment of a strong owner/operator, the preparation of the operator goes further than just being “ready to operate”- it also includes capacity building to be fully involved in the project, including during construction.

The objectives for this webinar are to introduce the IAEA’s perspective on the overall responsibilities, and capabilities of owners and operators for countries initiating or implementing a nuclear power programme (IAEA Nuclear Energy Series No. NG-T-3.1 (Rev. 1)/2020) which addresses new issues such as the separation of owner and operator organizations, and also covers strategies to develop owner/operator organizations ‘competence.

AFCONE and the IAEA are organizing this virtual meeting to inform the involved audience and 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 expected outcomes of the webinar are:

- Gain an understanding of the responsibilities and capabilities of the owner/operator organisations in the implementation of a new nuclear power project;
- Learn about experiences of embarking countries in setting up a nuclear power project management organization.
- Increase awareness of IAEA support to future African operator organizations.

Our Estimated Speakers will Develop the Importance of the Subject and the Specific Recommendations related.



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In Conclusion Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE), assisted by African Experts in the Fields, is committed, and engaged to work closely with the African Union Commission Relevant Departments, in the present case (Infrastructure & Energy (I&E) - Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI)- Trade & Industry (ETIM)- Peace and Security (PAPS)- Sustainable Environment (ARBE)) in order to address the regional challenges faced and further support the African Union Member States.

The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, delivered, since decades now, important assistance to interested Members States, through in particular Expert Missions, Education and Training, Development of Nuclear Safety & Security International Standards, Providing Adequate Tools for Energy Planning etc..... The IAEA Support will continue to be essential for the African Countries embarked in New Nuclear Power Programmes.

The Providers of Nuclear Technology have also a critical role to play in this Field, during all the NPP Project Phases, including in Contributing to the Education & Training in Nuclear Science & Technology. This is what some are already implementing.

The prime responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the person or organization responsible for activities involving nuclear technology. Regulating safety is a national responsibility. Therefore, Ownership and Sustainability are the Key Words to Consider, as specified by the African Union Institutional Reforms launched since 2016.

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.

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