

## **Webinar on Responsibilities and Capabilities of Owners and Operators for a New NP Programme**

AFCONE-IAEA Webinar, 24 February 2022  
(13:00-16:00 Vienna Time)

Opening Remarks by NENP Director

Dear Colleagues, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

On behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is my pleasure to be with you in this webinar on Responsibilities and Capabilities of Owners and Operators for a New NP Programme.

More than one billion people has no access to electricity in the world. More than half of them live in Africa. African countries are working hard to enable their people to use the electricity for improving their quality of life. All the available options are being considered by the countries including nuclear power.

Nuclear power is indeed safe. It's economically viable. And it meets energy and environmental needs. It will help drive economic growth and mitigate climate change, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 7 - Access to electricity goes beyond and ensures also clean air, access to clean water and modern medical and education services. Currently, over 30 countries operate nuclear power reactors. Last year two newcomer countries have connected their first nuclear power plant units to their electrical grid: United Arab Emirates and Belarus.

Specifically, in Africa, nuclear power has already been in use for long

time. South Africa has been operating a nuclear power plant since 1984. There were attempts from other African states however until now there is no other country operating an NPP. We see currently several countries in Africa embarking on nuclear power. So far, Egypt has reached to the project implementation stage. Egypt is now in the process of construction license review of the first NPP and preparing the site to begin the construction this year.

The IAEA's Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power has been widely adopted by countries embarking on a new nuclear power programme as well as by countries expanding their existing programmes after a long period without new constructions. The IAEA Milestones approach describes a set of infrastructure issues to be addressed during three distinct phases in the development of the infrastructure for a nuclear power programme.

Each key organization has a specific role to play, with responsibilities that change as the programme evolves. The Nuclear Energy Programme Implementation Organization, or NEPIO, is responsible for the overall coordination of the programme and ensures the engagement of all important parties. The regulatory body is responsible to make independent regulatory decisions that are free from any undue influences, such as pressures associated with changing political circumstances or economic conditions. The owner/operator is responsible for selecting the technology, preparing and assessing the bid (if using competitive bidding), negotiating the contract(s) and managing the NPP project, including applying for the licences that are needed for construction and operation. As being prime responsible for the safety and security of the NPP, owner/operator needs to develop strong organizational capacity to build and operate the nuclear power plant including competent human resources, technical capacity, and managerial and administrative capability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to say a few words about the role of the IAEA.

The Agency provides integrated support to embarking countries in their efforts to establish the necessary infrastructure for nuclear power.

We assist our Member States interested in nuclear power by developing international standards and disseminating proven technical approaches; providing guidance on policies and strategies; and fostering the exchange of scientific and technical information as well as experiences and lessons learned. We do this through Workshops like this one, technical meetings, international conferences, expert missions, webinars and training courses.

The Agency through our Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) service, we help you assess the status of infrastructure development in your country. We take into account the phase of the implementation of nuclear power programme in your country and make recommendations and suggestions regarding further work that we think is needed to achieve the milestone for that phase. Through our Integrated Work Plan (IWP) process and based on the national action plan you develop to address the recommendations and suggestions of the INIR missions, we jointly identify the activities where the Agency can provide support to help embarking countries. We support many African countries with different phases of implementation through this mechanism including Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and many others.

In addition to the national IWP customized support, the Agency provides support in this area through regional and interregional

projects. For example, through a major four-year interregional project, the Agency designed and delivered 78 training events for around 1250 participants from 50 Member States in last four years. The Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Training was implemented jointly by the Departments of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Safety and Security, Technical Cooperation and the Office of Legal Affairs.

The Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) service remains a central part of our support to embarking countries.

In 2019, we conducted two INIR missions: a Phase 2 Mission to Egypt, and a Phase 1 Follow-up Mission to Ghana, to review the status of development of their nuclear power infrastructure. In 2021, we conducted INIR Phase 1 follow-up mission to Kenya and Phase 1 mission to Uganda.

Before concluding, I would like to thank to our colleagues from AFCONE for organizing this webinar and inviting the Agency to participate.

I wish you all productive discussions during the webinar.

Thank you.