

Workshop on Promoting Effective Interaction Among Nuclear Industry and Regulatory Body in Countries Introducing Nuclear Power Programmes

AFCONE-IAEA Workshop, 30 - 31 May 2022 (14:00-17:00 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 Workshop on Promoting Effective Interaction Among Nuclear Industry and Regulatory Body in Countries Introducing Nuclear Power Programmes.

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.

An effective regulatory framework is essential to the success of a national nuclear power programme. It establishes necessary requirements, authorizes activities, and verifies compliance with safety, security, and safeguards requirements. The regulatory framework needs to be developed and implemented in a phased approach to support the nuclear power programme. In this regard, the sharing of practical experiences of Member States that have advanced through the process of embarking on a nuclear power programme is expected to benefit those Member States that are considering, or are in the planning phases of, such a programme.

Communication and consultation are strategic instruments that support the regulatory body in performing its regulatory functions. They enable the regulatory body to make informed decisions and to develop awareness of safety among interested parties, thereby promoting safety

culture. The establishment of regular communication and consultation with interested parties will contribute to more effective communication by the regulatory body in a possible nuclear or radiological emergency.

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. In next year, we have INIR Phase 1 mission to Zambia.

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

I wish you all productive discussions during the workshop.

Thank you.