



International Atomic Energy Agency

[Republic of Yemen]: Position Paper

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Topic 1: Addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism

Nuclear terrorism is a major threat to the Republic of Yemen as well as the rest of the world. With terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS controlling significant portions of Yemeni territory¹, it is with no doubt that these groups would use nuclear terrorism to deliver their message if given the opportunity. That is why it is essential for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to mobilize efforts in disarmament and prevent further development of nuclear weapons². ISIS attacks in and around Yemen have been relatively common, killing hundreds of people throughout the year³. The Yemeni government, along with numerous other countries' governments is concerned about the potential threats that could be posed if nuclear weapons land in the wrong hands.

It is nearly impossible to efficiently rid the world of the approximately 15,375 nuclear weapons that currently exist⁴. Therefore, in order to protect countries with dominant terrorist groups like Yemen, nations that have built these types of weapons must ensure that they are properly secured and that any materials or resources needed to make them are also secured. The IAEA has a responsibility to develop an approach to confirm the effectiveness of the security facilities containing these weapons. This is the only way to prevent terrorists and thieves from gaining access to the most dangerous and powerful weapons known to humankind. Another step to preventing a global disaster would be to persuade Israel to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)⁵. This would prevent the spread of nuclear weapons from Israel, and enhance the security of the Middle East in a very critical time.

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

² <http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/advancingnuclearsecurity.pdf>

³ <http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/29/middleeast/yemen-military-camp-bombing/>

⁴ <http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/nuclear-arsenals/>

⁵ <http://intpolicydigest.org/2015/06/11/israel-in-action-spoiling-the-nuclear-non-proliferation-treaty/>

Topic 2: Nuclear energy as an alternate source of energy

Although the majority of electricity supplied to the Yemeni population is powered by fossil fuels, the current Yemeni government strongly supports and is actively pursuing the development of nuclear reactors for the coming decade (2025-2030). The gas-operated Marib Power plant⁶ is in bad shape and is believed to last only 1.8 more years. This means Yemen is seriously considering other power-generators to provide electricity to approximately one million people who use it (40% of the population).

Nuclear waste is the biggest issue that arises as a result of nuclear energy. Yemen believes that the advantages of nuclear energy far surpass the disadvantages. With only 30 grams⁷ of nuclear waste being produced for one person throughout an entire year, this is a small price to pay for a fairly environmentally friendly method of generating electricity. The Yemen civil war is making it increasingly difficult to supply the country with the energy its population requires. As a result of this, renewable energy sources such as solar panels are currently being implemented⁸. Alternative types of energy sources are necessary because the war is causing damage to power generators and making it difficult to obtain the resources necessary to repair the Marib power plant. Yemen supports nuclear power and is currently working with the IAEA on the plans to build a nuclear power plant.

⁶ <http://www.yementimes.com/en/1869/news/4980/Yemen%E2%80%99s-largest-power-plant-in-need-of-urgent-repairs-%E2%80%98Could-stop-at-any-point%E2%80%99.htm>

⁷ <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-wastes/radioactive-waste-management.aspx>

⁸ <https://www.eia.gov/beta/international/analysis.cfm?iso=YEM>

Topic 3: Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear program in Iran

The stability of US-Iran relations is the main predictor of the success of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). There is a good working relationship between U.S. secretary of state John Kerry and Iran foreign minister Javad Zarif, allowing the nations to resolve conflict regarding the JCPOA diplomatically⁹. The deal permits Iran to pursue only peaceful endeavours using nuclear energy, preventing the development and use of nuclear weapons militarily.

In the past, the relationship between Iran and Yemen was that of a positive nature. However, with the outbreak of war in Yemen and the support of the Iranian government for the Houthi rebels¹⁰, the relationship between the nations is deteriorating. In order for Iran to improve its reputation on the world stage they must abide by the JCPOA as well as strengthen their relationship with the USA. They can begin doing this by terminating their supply of weapons and funds to the Houthi rebels in Yemen¹¹. The belief held by Saudi Arabia and Israel that this agreement would make Iran more aggressive in the Middle East can be easily assuaged. Seeing that Iran had signed the JCPOA agreement, the US might potentially lift its sanctions on Iranian oil, bringing prices down and in turn, hurting the Saudi Arabian economy that relies heavily on oil. The USA and other member states must continue to impose sanctions on Iranian oil. This would garner the support of Saudi Arabia and Israel by protecting their economy. It is also essential to restrict Iran's ballistic missile activities because they are directly linked to nuclear testing in that ballistic missiles have the ability to carry and deploy nuclear weapons¹². It is crucial that Iran abides by all the rules of the JCPOA and decreases their ballistic missile activities.

⁹ http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/20/opinion/how-to-ensure-the-iran-nuclear-deal-survives-the-next-president.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FIran%27s%20Nuclear%20Program&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection

¹⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

¹¹ <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/04/20/iran-support-for-yemen-houthis-goes-back-years/26095101/>

¹² <http://www.thetower.org/article/why-is-iran-testing-ballistic-missiles-after-the-nuclear-deal/>