

Ellie Hackett
Hanover High School
Democratic Republic of Congo
International Atomic Energy Agency
Nuclear Terrorism

As the threat of global nuclear terrorism becomes more urgent, it is essential that the IAEA address this issue. The Democratic Republic of the Congo feels that this issue is extremely relevant to us as we have struggled with obtaining adequate security for our currently inactive nuclear reactor site, Le Centre Régional d'Etudes Nucléaires de Kinshasa in Kinshasa. Nuclear terrorism poses a threat to the entire world, for many countries in different ways. For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it is the possibility that the poorly secured uranium be stolen by terrorist groups.

For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, properly securing the nuclear reactors in Kinshasa has been a challenge, due to financial struggle and war, and we have seen this lack of security taken advantage of before. In the late 1970's two of our uranium rods were stolen and only one was ever recovered. The rod was found with the Italian mafia who was planning to sell it to an "un-named Middle Eastern government" for 12.8 million U.S dollars. Although the plant is closed, it is still vulnerable. Our fear is that with the rise of various terrorist groups, it will be extremely easy for these groups to obtain uranium from our plant in order to manufacture "dirty bombs". Of course, any attack like this could put the safety of Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and other parts of the world in jeopardy. To address this issue, it is essential that security be improved as, due to the end of the civil war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we would like the plant to be re-opened.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo supports and has signed the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism treaty, as well as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, considering our vulnerability in this issue, is committed to reaching a resolution that is both beneficial for us and for the rest of the world. The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that this resolution should include funds and aid donated by our Western allies in order to ensure that Le Centre Régional d'Etudes Nucléaires de Kinshasa becomes secure.

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The Iran Nuclear Deal

In July 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was approved by China, Russia, France, Germany, the U.S and the U.K and Iran. This agreement lifts sanctions on Iran in return for them only using their nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The lifting of these sanctions will result in an economic boom for Iran and allow them to once more export their oil. Strict restrictions were set forth regarding the number of centrifuges they could use, far less than needed to develop a nuclear weapon. This results in a lengthened breakout time. During the agreement, the IAEA will continue to inspect facilities regularly. Additionally, a previous resolution banned the sale of any battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems to Iran, therefore limiting their ability to transport and continue to develop weapons. The JCPOA agreement does not prohibit the U.S from implementing new sanction is Iran continues to develop weapons. The agreement has become a topic of debate as neighboring nations have expressed their concern regarding the effects of this agreement. Most are concerned that this agreement will lead Iran to become more brutal with their military in the region and that they will resume building of nuclear weapons once the restrictions of the agreement begin to expire after a decade.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that in order for Iran to improve their reputation that they will need to cooperate and abide by all rules set forth in the agreement. It essential that IAEA be regular and extremely harsh with their inspections. It is essential that the possibility of re-implementing sanctions be considered if Iran continues to develop weapons.

The safety of many states is at stake and it is essential that we be meticulous and careful when making sure that each state involved abides by the agreement at all times.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo recommends that a resolution be written that explicitly states the possibility of sanctions returning in the situation that Iran does not comply with the JCPOA.

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Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy

Nuclear energy is proving to be an extremely reliable and green source of energy that many countries are beginning to implement the use of. It is beginning to be a viable, yet expensive, option to generate power for an entire country.

In the case of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it will take much work to prepare us for the use of a nuclear facility. Now that our country is becoming more stable after the end of the war, we would love to have the opportunity to continue to advance our technology and knowledge to the point where having a functioning nuclear facility would benefit us. At this point, the nuclear reactor in Kinshasa are out of operation, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that this is due to the fact that the country does not have enough money to keep it up to the standards that the IAEA maintains. At this point, the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that the most important issue at hand is keeping the reactors secure as scientists and researchers work towards the goal of re-opening the facility.

This brings to the table an important question; is it worth introducing nuclear power to third world countries? Essentially, a third world country would simply not gain the same benefits from a nuclear reactor that many second and first world countries would. The Democratic Republic of the Congo believes, from first hand experience, that it is most important to ensure that the country has a reliable grid network and enough knowledge and safety preparations for the use of a nuclear reactor before it is introduced. For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, most of the electricity is generated by hydropower. The Democratic Republic of the Congo understands that its hydropower facilities should be improved and added upon in order to create a grid network that a reactor can depend on and become a beneficial part of.

In terms of second and first world countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo understands that the implementation of nuclear facilities will be extremely beneficial. If a country

has the resources and stability to obtain a nuclear reactor, but not the funds, then states should be willing to aid them in their endeavors as it will greatly benefit said country and the states supporting it. Of course, this all comes with a price tag. To provide regular inspections and to maintain the security of these facilities, contributions from individual states will be necessary, but overall, this becomes worth it as we all move towards more dependable sources of energy.

Democratic Republic of the Congo recommends that a resolution be written that aids and guides developing countries in creating their own source of nuclear power, as the addition of nuclear reactors can provide beneficial energy and medical and scientific research opportunities, and will also help the state in leading them to depend upon a more sustainable source of energy.