

Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Country: Lebanese Republic

A reliable source of energy is a key to all economic activities. In the Lebanese Republic, there is very high energy demand due to high population density and a modern economy, with electricity consumption per capita growing by 7% per year on average. While there is a high demand for energy, there is a low supply of fuel for power plants, leading to excessive costs from energy import costs. In addition, more than 7.5% of the electricity demand has been imported from Egypt and Syria, and these supplies are at risk given local security issues.

Other than the fact that energy is necessary for economic activities, it is also necessary for a good standard of living and scientific advancement in societies. Nuclear power is a way of producing electricity that has not been utilised in the Lebanese Republic. Considering that Lebanon is one of the only Middle Eastern countries with little to no oil, atomic energy could be very useful in the Lebanese Republic.

Not only could nuclear power in the Lebanese Republic be useful for Lebanon itself, but the country could also sell the excess energy to neighbouring countries. This would not only benefit Lebanon's economy but would benefit the other countries with energy droughts as well.

The Lebanese Republic doesn't just support the building of a nuclear plant in Lebanon, but favours the construction of multiple nuclear power stations across the region. Other countries in the Middle East have oil and gas, but nuclear energy is much cleaner than burning fossil fuels. In fact, a fifth of the 65 countries that have expressed interest in building nuclear power plants are located in the Middle East, so clearly building multiple reactors is a very plausible idea with support throughout the region.

EDL, (Electricité du Liban) the main energy provider in the Lebanese Republic, has failed in providing a continuous energy supply to the country. EDL and other energy providers have created very high costs due to the importation of oil and gas. EDL imports \$500 million worth of fossil fuel each year to generate needed electricity. This has caused the Lebanese Government to acquire 2.4 billion dollars of debt, minimizing the government's ability to invest in other important social needs such as education,

healthcare and infrastructure. Even with all the imported fuel, supply is still often less than demand and blackouts are common occurrences due to this.

While nuclear generators are expensive to build, they are relatively inexpensive to run. They can operate with few inputs for more than 200 years, and emit little to no pollution and zero greenhouse gasses. While they may put the government deeper in debt at first, they will be cheaper in the long run than continuing to import oil and gas.

Although most Middle Eastern countries have plenty of oil, fossil fuel deposits will soon run out and these countries will have to turn to another energy resource. Nuclear power is a long lasting solution to this problem. Despite the Lebanese Republic's dense population, it is still confident in a future with nuclear power for not only Lebanon but the entire Middle Eastern region.