



### ***Position Paper for the International Atomic Energy Agency***

**Committee:** International Atomic Energy Agency

**Topics:** Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism, Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy, Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program

**Country:** The Republic of Rwanda

**Delegate:** Sophie Cao, Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf

Since April 2012, the Republic Rwanda has been an active member of the International Atomic Energy Agency. As Rwanda signed and ratified major treaties concerning the subject of nuclear such as the *African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty*, the *treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* and the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty*, the delegation of the Republic has shown great commitment to addressing the nuclear problem. Rwanda is ready to contribute in the finding of mutual ground and satisfactory solutions as it will discuss the topics before the IAEA: *Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism*, *Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy* and the *Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran*. [EQ1]

#### **I. Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

Terrorist acts have become a major issue of the 21st century and with nuclear weapons in the game, international security is even more at risk. In 1994, Rwanda was directly affected by the destruction of human life and humanity as The Rwandan Genocide took place. This mass slaughter is one of too many examples where weapons are sold to people with great fanaticism and zealotry. The genocide has scarred, not only Rwanda but the rest of world. With that in mind, the delegation is ready to focus on the prevention of nuclear proliferation as the thought of nuclear weapons replacing small arms in civil conflicts would lead to even more disastrous and irreversible consequences.

Although the problematic of nuclear terrorism does not affect Rwanda on a large scale, the country is committed to fighting this troublesome situation. In fact, Rwanda recognizes, as said in the Resolution 1540, “that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security.” In 2011, Rwanda submitted a report providing steps to ensure the application of the Resolution 1540. The report specified laws and measures taken to prohibit nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and initiatives to prevent and put a stop to the proliferation of all nuclear-related weaponry. Therefore, Rwanda stands next to many countries such as Belgium as it encourages the implementation of the framework and safeguards agreements established by the IAEA in more countries. To strengthen the non-proliferation regime, Rwanda suggests negotiating new nuclear weapons control treaties. New weapons control treaties could prevent major damages to the country and its future. Nuclear weapons have disastrous long term consequences. Initial radiation causes immediate damage, but it only represents 3% of the total energy in the explosion. Residual radiation renders the surrounding area inhabitable and might release radiation into non contaminated areas. Therefore, it is very important to control these weapons as the country and its future are at risk.

## **II. Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy**

Nuclear is not only a mass destruction weapon but it can also be used as a great alternate source of energy. Nuclear power emits low amounts of carbon dioxide which makes it a greener alternative. Also, it is possible to generate a large quantity of energy from only one single plant which makes it highly productive. Rwanda's energy primarily comes from biomass and hydropower although branches like solar and methane gas are being developed. As Rwanda ratified the IAEA treaty in 2012, former State Minister for Energy and Water, Coletha Uwineza Ruhamy, pointed out numerous benefits the treaty brings to the country.

As for the exploitation of nuclear power as such, Rwanda supports its utilization as an alternative energy option but only with a strict framework. Affordable, accessible and sustainable electricity is a goal for the Rwanda government as many efforts have been implemented at local and national levels. In 2012, during the *World Energy Forum*, President Paul Kagame emphasized the importance of energy: *"the world community should treat access to energy as a basic right, and essential to the development process. Appropriate policies can then be developed and resources mobilised to make energy accessible to all at affordable cost. Once this has been recognised, we can then set up a consumption benchmark as a measure of well-being, indicating minimum energy consumption per capita. This would achieve several things: reduce waste, increase efficiency and cut costs, enabling wide access to developing countries."*

Between 2008 and 2011, this access was expanded by an impressive 160%. Investments are now centered on the increase in electricity generation. By 2017, there would be a capacity of 340 MW of hydropower, 310 MW of geothermal power, 300 MW of methane-based power, 200 MW of peat-based power and 20 MW of diesel thermal plants. For now, there is no mention of nuclear energy as the country's technology is not yet enough developed to sustain the infrastructures needed. The interest would be in using the nuclear power to solve the Rwanda energy conundrum only if it cannot be fixed by the exploitation of other energies.

## **III. Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran**

As part of the fight against nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear terrorism, the implementation and the enforcement of the nuclear program in Iran is primordial. Rwanda strongly stands with the UN Security Council as well as many countries on this issue. Rwanda encourages peaceful negotiations between actors but sees the necessity of sanctions if the aforementioned solution fails. Rwanda has always given its support for the resolutions proposed by the Security Council including resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747. Resolution 1696 demanded the suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment program. Resolution 1737 referred to the sanctions imposed by the Security Council to Iran for failure to abide by the conditions agreed in resolution 1696. Finally, in resolution 1747, the Security Council toughened up the sanctions against Iran. In 2013, while Rwanda was part of the Security Council as a non-permanent member, the Resolution 2105 concerning Iran's nuclear development was adopted. Rwanda encourages Iran to cooperate with the international community and respect the conditions set by the UN Security Council. As it was earlier mentioned, Rwanda also supports the implementation of stricter sanctions if Iran does not respect its agreements with the UN Security Council threatening international peace and security. Hopeful for peaceful conclusions, Rwanda will support open dialogue and diplomatic actions to prevent tragic consequences.