

Delegate: Daniel Reid

Country: France

Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency

Position Paper –



France is a P5 European nation with a massive interest in the United Nations and in the preservation of world peace. France strongly believes in the immense value and important role of nuclear power in our modern society. France is also keenly aware of terrorism and of the potential threat of the development of nuclear terror. However, considering the immense benefit that nuclear energy has brought to our society and the massive security precautions that are taken to ensure that nuclear resources do not fall into the wrong hands, France believes that atomic resources are vital in our society.

Topic 1 – Addressing the threat of Nuclear Terrorism

France ranks 36th on the Global Terrorism Index¹, mainly as a result of recent attacks by the extremist group ISIL. Over the course of one year, France has been subjected to more than a dozen² various terrorist attacks that have united the nation against these terrorist groups. Because of these horrific attacks, France extended its state of emergency making it the longest state of emergency that the country has ever experienced. France also increased border patrols and deployed 6,500³ soldiers to protect sensitive areas in the country such as mosques and schools. France is all too aware of the potential risks that nuclear terrorism could pose and understands that it would be at risk of being a victim to these types of attacks. Nuclear terrorism is clearly a threat; the possession of nuclear weapon by terrorist groups would give them an advantage in negotiations since the likelihood that they would use such a weapon would be quite high given their very violent pasts. The clear risk is also that the use of such a weapon would be extremely difficult to stop and the fallout would be crippling to any country. With the increased wealth of organizations such as ISIS due to their ownership of multiple oil fields and refineries⁴, it is clear that terrorism has indeed evolved into a far more lucrative pursuit, therefore the possibility of terrorist organizations being able to purchase nuclear warheads has become far more likely. The IAEA needs to be united in its approach against nuclear terror as any weak points may be exploited and the world as a whole will suffer.

Because of this France would like to launch the Fund Incentivize Monitor Response or FIMR initiative. This initiative would work by expanding the use of several existing bodies and taking advantage of initiatives that have already been used to combat terrorism in France. First,

¹ Country, By. "The Global Terrorism Index." *WorldAtlas*. N.p., 19 Sept. 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

² News, BBC. "Timeline: Attacks in France." *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

³ By April This Year Some 60 Sites Had Been Blocked. "What Has France Actually Done to Fight Terrorism?" - *The Local*. N.p., 19 July 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

⁴ "Syria Oil Map: The Journey of a Barrel of Isis Oil." *Isis Syria Oil Map*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

France believes that the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund⁵ should be expanded and should become an anonymous fund in order to reduce conflicts of interest regarding actions taken by the IAEA. Also further funding requests would also be made to the UN Security Council. This funding would be used to further increase IAEA actions regarding the identification of potential threats in nuclear security. Nations who are not currently part of IAEA treaties should be incentivized to join them. France also understands that some countries may still be uncooperative in such circumstances and therefore believes that sanctions, on a united front, must be put into place in order to encourage cooperation. Monitoring is extremely important; it has helped to greatly decrease terrorism in France and we are certain that our approaches can be translated on an international scale. The IAEA must be able to ensure that treaties such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are upheld and that nuclear grade radioactive products are closely monitored so that the likelihood of radioactive materials falling into the wrong hands is mitigated. Finally, response is vital; the IAEA must be prepared for the worst case scenario, whether that is an attack on a nuclear facility or terrorist organizations obtaining a nuclear warhead. France suggests that policy regarding these potential occurrences must be put into place and suggests that IAEA nuclear facility monitors be able to be stationed in Security Council regional bases in order to gather information more rapidly in the event of such crises.

France is certain that if this policy is followed that the risk of nuclear terror will be greatly reduced.

Topic 2 – Nuclear Energy as an Alternative Source of Energy

France has a nuclear power programme that rivals that of any other country; nuclear power in France is the largest component of domestic generation, responsible for over 75%⁶ of energy produced. France strongly believes in the potential of nuclear energy and believes that other countries should follow its lead. France believes that nuclear energy should be the main source of energy in the world as it is extremely efficient; nuclear energy can be the bridge that the world needs between fossil fuels and renewable energy. France's energy demands have been addressed by the use of nuclear energy. France understands the world's energy crisis and the necessity to solve this issue.

France believes that it is the role of first world countries to help increase the usage of nuclear power throughout the world. France also strongly believes in safety as a primary concern. We are all too aware of the disasters that can occur when safety is compromised and therefore France strongly believes that proper safety practises must be put in place. This is the main reason behind the creation of the IAEA Nuclear Energy Partnership Programme which would allow developed countries to sell nuclear energy to developing countries at an appealing price to encourage the use of nuclear energy. Developed countries would be responsible for the

⁵ "Table- Voluntary Contributions to IAEA Nuclear Security Fund." *International Atomic Energy Agency*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

⁶ "Nuclear Share of Electricity Generation in 2015." *PRIS*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

development of the infrastructure to provide the energy to developing nations and contracts would be made to ensure that power was sold at a price that was worthwhile for both parties. On top of this, funds for further research would be channelled towards existing nuclear research bodies to find the most cost-effective methods of producing power. However, to ensure that newly discovered methods were safe, countries who received funding from the IAEA would have to have their new methods approved before being used in the partnership programme. This research would cover improved extraction, refining and disposal methods. Finally, to ensure that nuclear waste was disposed of properly, incentives should be created by the UN to build new nuclear disposal plants in a less developed country. Countries such as France already possess nuclear disposal areas⁷, however many countries do not want to have a nuclear disposal plant in their country. Allowing a less developed country to construct one, would be of great economic value to that country and would allow for the world's nuclear waste to be disposed of properly and safely. This plant would be funded by the country willing to construct this site however they would receive deductions on the nuclear power they purchased.

Topic 3 – Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear programme in Iran

Finally, the situation in Iran is certainly one of peak concern. Iran is clearly in a hazardous area and its nuclear programme has been volatile with frequent disagreements in the past. However, France believes that as long as the situation remains amicable that Iran should be afforded the same rights as any other country possessing nuclear warheads; however due to Iran's past actions, methods of intervening quickly should the situation deteriorate should be implemented. France certainly backs the JCPOA⁸ and believes that the policy implemented creates the groundwork for a smooth, risk free situation. France believes that this agreement is far better than what has been reached in other countries and that it should be an example that many other countries should follow. France is fearful that if countries attempt to implement further guidelines on Iran that it creates a climate that is unwelcoming for other countries to negotiate regarding their nuclear situation. France however does not believe in ever fully withdrawing involvement in this area and still believes that checks should be made every 5 years even after the initial 15-year treaty has terminated. France believes that the strict guidelines that are upheld in western countries should be upheld even in countries such as Iran as catastrophes are prone to occurring. This also ensures that potentially violent military aims are quelled and that the rest of the IAEA have some idea of what is happening. France is a strong believer that freedom of information is vital in ensuring that this situation does not further deteriorate. Furthermore, despite Iran's negative appearance on the world stage in the past, France is certain that Iran's continued cooperation will ensure that that is changed. Finally France believes that this situation can be extremely volatile and as current negotiations are

⁷ Broom, Rob. "How France Is Disposing of Its Nuclear Waste." *BBC News*. BBC, 04 Mar. 2014. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

⁸ "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action." *U.S. Department of State*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.

running smoothly, so real changes should be made; should the situation deteriorate, France would agree to the creation of harsher sanctions.

Bibliography

¹ Country, By. "The Global Terrorism Index." *WorldAtlas*. N.p., 19 Sept. 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-global-terrorism-index-countries-most-affected-by-terrorist-attacks.html>

² News, BBC. "Timeline: Attacks in France." *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33288542>

³ By April This Year Some 60 Sites Had Been Blocked. "What Has France Actually Done to Fight Terrorism?" - *The Local*. N.p., 19 July 2016. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://www.thelocal.fr/20160719/what-has-france-done-to-fight-terrorism>

⁴ "Syria Oil Map: The Journey of a Barrel of Isis Oil." *Isis Syria Oil Map*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://ig.ft.com/sites/2015/isis-oil/>

⁵ "Table- Voluntary Contributions to IAEA Nuclear Security Fund." *International Atomic Energy Agency*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/table-voluntary-contributions-iaea-nuclear-security-fund>

⁶ "Nuclear Share of Electricity Generation in 2015." *PRIS*. United Nations, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<https://www.iaea.org/PRIS/WorldStatistics/NuclearShareofElectricityGeneration.aspx>

⁷ Broom, Rob. "How France Is Disposing of Its Nuclear Waste." *BBC News*. BBC, 04 Mar. 2014. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26425674>

⁸ "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action." *U.S. Department of State*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2016.
<http://www.state.gov/e/eb/tfs/spi/iran/jcpoa/>