***Position Paper for International Atomic Energy Agency 2017***

1. **Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

Nuclear Terrorism is a brewing challenge facing the world as a whole and needs to be addressed through the IAEA and affirmative measures must be taken to avoid problems that may occur. Advances are being made in quick succession towards the advancement of new preventative measures in Egypt. The Arab Republic of Egypt looks forward to continue and share the experience and lessons learned regarding national measures and strategies to secure nuclear materials, as well as to enhance the international cooperation in this area. It is vital to refer to the advisory role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency in this regard. Egypt benefited from the Agency’s guidance in regards to the enhancement of nuclear security during the process of drafting the new Egyptian nuclear legislation, as it is currently in place. This legislation is very comprehensive in nature and it forecasts an independent regulatory authority in the nuclear field. This legislation also has multiple provisions on securing nuclear materials, criminalizing all acts of sabotage, illegal possession and illicit trafficking of nuclear material. In this respect, the Arab Republic of Egypt is currently involved in a cooperative scheme with numerous countries by developing measures and strategies related to enhancing nuclear security. While keeping in mind the importance of international cooperation and the sharing of experience in the field of nuclear security, it is essential to emphasize that any attempt geared towards levying unjustified restrictions on the unassailable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy as one of the three acknowledged pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be opposed. The effects of such attempts will only lead to unwarranted obstacles that will impede cooperation in the field of nuclear security. As such, the nuclear security remains not prohibitive, but cooperative, universal objective, and remains broad in its nature. It Egypt’s view that nuclear security is not designed to be limited to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism, but in fact incorporates a wide spectrum of criminal threats that need to be countered, including that of nuclear terrorism.

Furthermore, Egypt censures the proliferation of nuclear weapons and supported the creation of both a Middle-East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and a WMD-Free Zone. Additionally, it is vital that effective economic sanctions should be taken against natiosn that are not in compliance with international agreements for the regulation of nuclear power, which include the standards of the IAEA.

Currently, Egypt is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and is in tandem with the 189 countries that have ratified the treaty. The NPT non-nuclear-weapon nations agree to not acquire nuclear weapons in order to create a stockpile and use in warfare. Egypt stalwartly encourages the efforts of NPT nuclear-weapon states including the UK, US, France, China, and Russia to disarm and discontinue the stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Egypt urges the solidarity of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League in promoting the right of all countries to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, by passing resolutions in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Arab Republic of Egypt regrets the failure of Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea to ratify and abide by the regulations of the NPT. Egypt urges these nations to realize the potential of peaceful nuclear power as a clean, cost-effective, and safe energy source that can promote a sustainable economy and environment for the future. Egypt the aforementioned nations that nuclear weapons pose a serious threat to the survival of the human race, and that the proliferation of nuclear weapons raises the risk of terror attacks in all countries. Egypt also urges Iran to renounce the production of nuclear weapons and to ensure that its nuclear power program will comply with IAEA regulations, as Egypt’s growing program does. As more and more nations are investing in such programs this also increases the risk that they will use these technologies against other nations. These actions must be prevented at all costs.

Egypt also recommends that the IAEA promote new sanctions against those nations which foster the proliferation of nuclear weapons that don’t comply with IAEA standards and staunchly believes that any concerted efforts by all member states in the committee to avoid potential issues that may arise with the rising tensions between regions of the world. Egypt also firmly believes that every nation state deserves the right to have nuclear power and thus encourages the IAEA to join with the IMF in order to help finance other nations who have not yet achieved such feats to do so. As Egypt is receiving help from Russia, the delegation urges other nations to do the same. The threat of nuclear terrorism is omnipresent in the world due to the current political structure around the globe. Because of this Egypt urges all member states to work towards a safer world without the constant threat of nuclear war. Because of this the IAEA should make more cooperative efforts with larger nations who currently have a large arsenal to assist other nations achieve nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and not violent purposes. Nuclear terrorism will always be a threat unless affirmative action is taken and Nuclear Free Zones are established.

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1. **Nuclear Energy as an Alternative Source of Energy**

The current democratic government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will continue its plans for the expansion of the nuclear energy sector despite the governmental transition in 2011. Minister of Energy Ahmed Emam has maintained his stance on the development of a safe and reliable nuclear program in Egypt. Even though the the government transition occurred five years’ prior there was never any delay to receive international support to back the impending nuclear program. Going back to the days of former President Mubarak the Egyptian government has maintained the idea that energy security is a major part of building the future of our country and an integral part of the Egyptian nation’s security system. Although the current leadership of Egypt rejects the ideals of former President Mubarak’s government as it is misrepresentative of the democratic aspirations of the Egyptian people, the government still adheres to the Mubarak administration’s position on peaceful nuclear energy, which is essential for energy independence and a more environmentally sustainable Egypt.

The Arab Republic of Egypt steadfastly supports the right of all nations to peacefully pursue the production of clean, safe nuclear energy in accord with International Atomic Energy Agency regulations. The Arab Republic of Egypt has a lot of past experience in the field of nuclear power, and established the Atomic Energy Authority in 1956. In 1958, Egypt made a pioneering step in the advancement of its nuclear program through a bilateral agreement with the USSR, as a light-weight water research reactor was supplied to Egypt and installed at Inshas. Egypt has always been committed to the pursuit of safe nuclear energy, and thus signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1980. Although the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986 disheartened the government of Egypt from swift development of nuclear power, Egypt 2006 has recognized advancements in the safety of nuclear energy production and determined to continue its nuclear program. With highly specialized and experienced physics and multiple research reactors in place the full scale development of nuclear energy is not a reach. In 2007, former Energy and Electricity Minister Hassan Younis announced its plans to construct ten new nuclear-powered electricity-generating stations across the country. In 2009, the Egyptian Nuclear Power Plant Authority and WorleyParsons Limited settled on a $160 million consultancy services contract for the development of new nuclear research facilities. Services provided under the contract include technology and site selection studies and includes the design, construction management, commissioning and start-up of a new 1,200 MWe nuclear power plant. In recent times much of the funding towards the nuclear program has shifted elsewhere but with recent support from the Russian Government the Republic of Egypt has gained the ability to once more start from where they left off. The program will resume in El Dabaa, in the northern part of the nation. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi signed two agreements with Russia to finance and build Egypt’s first fully operational nuclear power plant. Under the agreement, the two countries will build and operate four 1,200-megawatt reactors.

President Sisi has used the region’s multiple crises to regain Egypt’s role as a regional power, which was lost with the fall of the Hosni Mubarak regime in 2011, then was followed by numerous political crises. At the center of this quest is the development of Egypt's first fully implemented civilian nuclear program. On the home front, nuclear power would help lessen persistent electricity shortages and blackouts. Furthermore, the plants could provide the power necessary to run desalination operations, which will provide Egypt with a significant amount of clean and safe drinking water. As of today much of Egypt’s energy supply comes from oil and other non-renewable resources but the move towards clean and more efficient sources of energy will provide the citizens of the whole nation electricity and water. Along with upcoming nuclear power plants the move towards wind and solar power is also in the works.

The Arab Republic of Egypt therefore strongly recommends international cooperation for the development of safe, clean, cost-efficient nuclear power in all. Egypt maintains that the United Nations should take swift and direct action to make nuclear power available to all countries that are in accordance with IAEA regulations.

Egypt further insists that the disaster at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi power plant in Japan in March 2011 was not representative of today’s technology and insists nations such as Germany and Japan reconsider their opposition to the use of nuclear power as a significant alternative energy source. The Arab Republic of Egypt thus holds that all nations should be guaranteed and should exercise the right to peaceful nuclear power.

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

The nuclear weapons program in Iran is not supported by almost all member states including Egypt. Much of the tension surrounding this nuclear program in Iran is due to long standing tension between the Egyptian government and the Iranian government. The initial source of agitation for Iran was Egyptian President Anwar Sadat’s pronouncement to accept peace with Israel following the Camp David Accords in 1978 and the signing of a formal Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in 1979. The Ayatollah Khomeini denounced Sadat’s decision by labeling it sedition against Islam and called on all Egyptian people to overthrow the current government. Egypt’s support for Iraq during the Iran-Iraq War was another serious source of hostility between the two nations. Though the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had condemned Egypt for accepting peace with Israel, Egypt still provided Iraq with an estimated $5 billion in weapons from 1980 to 1987 which including munitions, tanks, and Soviet Scud missiles. Egypt’s close alliance with the United States is viewed a threat to Iranian officials. The Egyptian government views the Iran and its support for the terrorist groups Hamas, ISIS and Hezbollah a threat to national and regional security. Egypt’s concern over Iran’s support for terrorist organizations was shown when Egyptian officials arrested twenty-five members of the organization in 2009 for plotting to plunder vessels traveling through the Suez Canal, discharge explosives at Egyptian tourist sites, as well as smuggle illegal weapons to militant groups in the Gaza strip. The Egyptian government has also found that Iran supported the Egyptian al Jihad, which was the terrorist group liable for the assassination of Anwar Sadat.

Egypt feels as though Iran’s growing nuclear weapons program is a threat not only to our nation but also to all nations in the Middle East. Egypt is the leader of the 118-nation Non-Aligned Movement as well as the New Agenda Coalition, which is a group of eight member states, including South Africa and Brazil. Egypt has played a unique role in shaping the nuclear agenda for the past several years. By teaming up with Iran in 2010 despite long standing differences, they completed the 2010 NPT Review Conference which was a call for a special meeting in 2012 to discuss a WMD ban in the region. A national poll was conducted in Egypt where 65 percent of the respondents acclaiming Former President Morsi’s decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with Tehran. This poll also revealed Iran’s growing popularity in Egypt. After being declared in compliance of the The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in early 2016, Iran has joined Egypt to drive for a new conference, which was a stand that was widely supported in the European Union and beyond.

As other major regional powers were beckoning their antagonism to the nuclear deal made in the spring of 2015, the Egyptian government renewed their push for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ), in conjunction with the discussions about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. While the NPT Review Conference was in session in May of 2015, Egypt pressed for a new deadline of March 2016 for a new special Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (MENWFZ) conference but it was vetoed by the United States. At the same time Iran was anxious to see the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action negotiations through, and thus did not support Egypt. However, there are ongoing discussions to team up with Iran, which is said to be reinstated as a Non-Nuclear Weapons State under the NPT, to team up with the Egyptian government to push for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East region.

Aside from the goals set out, the Egyptian government wants to keep the Middle East safe of nuclear weapons but the delegation of Egypt and its citizens feel that it is the right of the Iranian government to develop their own nuclear program. By no means should they be admonished for developing a nuclear program. However due to recent allegations of nuclear weapons testing that does not comply with past agreements and is in direct violation in regards to the MENWFZ, the Iranian government should be scrutinized as such. The testing of nuclear weapons is not necessary and will put a strain on the growing diplomatic relations between the two nations. Due to the newly implanted Iran deal developed by the United States and other nations, Iran has slowed down its research and development in order to lift all economic sanctions. Even if these sanctions have been relived there is still concern over the continued underground development of these weapons. Thus the IAEA should also conduct regular checks of these nuclear facilities to help ensure that Iran will comply with the guidelines set out in the deal.

In order to prevent the future development of the Iranian nuclear program after the deal expires Egypt urges all Middle Eastern Nations as well as all other member nations to sign a new deal that would prevent all member states from promoting nuclear proliferation and further economic sanction on those nations who do not comply. If further action must be taken, then the development of a new task force specifically in regard to combat future problems that may occur with the development of the Iranian nuclear weapons program must be implemented and should be headed by Egypt, which has already led the development of a Nuclear Free Zone in the Middle East. The Iranian Nuclear program should not be one of violence in mind or used in order to stockpile nuclear warheads. Due to the close proximity to Egypt the threat is still looming and affirmative actions must be taken to avoid any future issues.

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