**Committee:** International Atomic Energy Agency

**Topics:**

1. Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

2. Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy

3. Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear program in Iran

**Country:** South Korea

Ever since the first nuclear test in the desert of New Mexico this science/technology has impacted humanity in ways no one could ever imagine. The first and only atomic bombs ever used in combat where those used by the United States to end WW2 in 1945. These bombs leveled two entire Japanese cities and led to a new chapter in human history. In July of 1957 an autonomous organization was founded to promote and discuss topics on the subject of atomic energy. Called the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and tied to the United Nations this organization would fight for the safe and healthy use of atomic energy. South Korea became a member of this organization in the same year the IAEA was founded. It has pushed for and used the use of atomic energy as a peaceful energy source. The Republic of South Korea currently has 25 operational Nuclear power reactors and has 3 under construction. 2

1. Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

With a neighbour like North Korea on its border South Korea is constantly aware of the possibility of a nuclear terrorist attack that may come. At the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in 2012, South Korea pushed for the reduction if not of the removal of highly enriched uranium (HEU) from all civilian sectors. They claimed that to achieve this they had developed technologies that would allow reactors that use HEU to be able to output the same levels of energy however with low enriched uranium (LEU). This would reduce the amount of highly volatile nuclear materials that could easily be accessed and stolen by hostile elements.

“In a Thursday commentary in the New York Times, ex-U.S. envoy to the U.N. nuclear watchdog Kenneth Brill and Partnership for Global Security President Kenneth Luongo noted that a minimum of four extremist organizations, including al-Qaeda, are known to be interested in acquiring nuclear weapons.” 1

Also looking towards all possibilities such as the collapse of North Korea, it is important to think of what will become of its multiple nuclear reactors and materials. Collaborations with the U.S call for military action and extraction of such materials.

The threat of Pyongyang selling such materials and rectors to other nations/groups poses another risk and could have negative effects on South Korea. North Korea has already sold a reactor to Syria. Reactors are much larger and harder to transport than an actual bomb so it is entirely plausible that a bomb could also be transported. This topic is one that South Korea is very eager of discussing.

2. Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy

South Korea is a huge supporter of using Nuclear energy as an Alternate Source of Energy. With its 25 operational nuclear reactors and 3 more under construction producing one third of its energy. Constantly expanding with no end to be seen in the future nuclear energy as an alternate source of energy seems to be the future for South Korea. With power usages constantly expanding nation wide as the age of technology grips the country harder than others, the need for more energy is increasing.

Additionally, South Korea is looking to export its technology across the world to expand the use of nuclear energy as a safe and cleaner energy source. This has shown itself though deals with the UAE and Jordan to construct research reactors, Also Turkey, Indonesia, China and Malaysia have all previously said that they would be interested in dealing with South Korea to create deals to export nuclear technology and reactors.

South Korea supports the expansion of this form of energy and even offers to sell its experience and tech from years of following this energy route. While the negatives such as what to do with the waste and the threat of catastrophic events loom over this form of procuring energy, the benefits for South Korea outweigh the potential negatives which can easily be avoided if the users of this technology are responsible.

3. Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear program in Iran

South Korea is a nation that trades heavily with Iran and has strong economic connections with the Persian nation. However, South Korea disagrees with Iran on a regular basis on the direction of Iran’s nuclear program which had led to South Korea supporting several of the sanctions that had been put on Iran.

South Korea however has stressed on numerous occasions its belief that Iran has the right to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes and that it simply disagrees on ulterior uses of atomic power.

The prospect of sharing nuclear tech, if used for civilian purposes, with Iran has also been discussed. This is not surprising since the two countries already share several deals in the energy sector such as South Korea’s import of thousands of barrels of oil from Iran.

These two countries have been on good terms for a long time and share dozens of trade and business deals. While the nuclear sanctions imposed by the U.N on Iran, and supported by South Korea, put a strain on their relationship, South Korea is hopeful that the future holds cooperation.