***Assigned Country****:* Algeria

***Position paper for the International Atomic Agency Committee***

***Topic I*: Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

The world has entered an age of mass casualty terrorism, in which certain adversaries  
seek the capability to inflict maximum carnage to achieve their ends. As numerous government studies have confirmed, making a nuclear bomb is potentially within the capabilities of a technically sophisticated terrorist group.[[1]](#footnote-1) Supervising the use of nuclear energy remains a questionable obstacle for the international atomic energy agency. Despite the numerous security checks conducted by the IAEA, many countries such as Israel and North Korea, who many suspect of having nuclear weapons, do not open their facilities to the IAEA for inspection. This causes severe controversy regarding the safety of nuclear power among these countries.

The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria reserves the right to acquire peaceful nuclear energy. The interest of the PDRA in nuclear energy began in the early seventies when a program of training engineers and scientists in nuclear engineering was set up.[[2]](#footnote-2) In addition, the country is a founding member of the international network of nuclear security, and it supports centers under the auspices of the IAEA.[[3]](#footnote-3) Algerian experts from different institutions are actively contributing in the IAEA’s working groups.[[4]](#footnote-4) Currently, Algeria does not have nuclear weapons. The country has ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state in 1995.[[5]](#footnote-5) Algeria was among the first to sign the Treaty of Pelindaba, which recognized the African continent as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.[[6]](#footnote-6) It also completed the process of ratification of all related International Legal Instruments such as the United Nations Conventions on combating terrorism, organized crime, corruption and money laundering.[[7]](#footnote-7) As a good gesture, Algeria has amended its penal code to criminalize malicious utilization of radioactive materials, including the general acts of the nuclear terrorism.[[8]](#footnote-8) This amendment is related to the international Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).[[9]](#footnote-9) To conclude, it is safe to say that the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria is making efforts on reducing nuclear terrorism in collaboration with the IAEA by creating legislations and regulations as well as international cooperation and coordinating mechanisms.[[10]](#footnote-10)

The prevention of nuclear terrorism requires funding to secure the spread of vulnerable nuclear material worldwide. It appears that expansion in the international atomic energy agency’s budget is necessary. The IAEA, much like other organizations, is facing major funding challenges. This forces a shift in funding strategies whereby other countries may have to increase their contribution to the IAEA. Whether these countries should be limited to the IAEA’s members only or should include all others, is a point of discussion. Countries like the USA and Kuwait have already volunteered to pay large payments to the IAEA.[[11]](#footnote-11) It seems that many other countries can and should contribute to the international atomic energy agency’s mission to minimize the fear of manufacturing nuclear weapons. Lacking the global supervision in producing and processing nuclear energy can potentially lead to catastrophic consequences that would make the world unsafe. The IAEA’s mandate should be generated by the UN and its funding must be adequately provided by all members of the UN based on their population and their usage of nuclear energy.

***Topic II:*** **Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy**

Despite being considered a source of clean energy, the inclusion of nuclear energy in the renewable energy list remains a dubious topic of discussion with a wide spectrum of opinions. Firstly, a major characteristic that helps nuclear energy to be defined as a renewable source is its low carbon emission.[[12]](#footnote-12) It is said that nuclear energy is an environmentally beneficial solution due to the emission of far fewer greenhouse gases in comparison to coal or other traditional power plants. The use of nuclear energy as an alternate source of energy permits a substantial reduction in existing and future nuclear waste through waste recycling and reprocessing. Finally, nuclear energy has a large power-generating capacity that is able to meet industrial needs as opposed to low-power technologies like solar energy that might meet only local, residential, or office needs but cannot generate power for heavy manufacturing.[[13]](#footnote-13) That being said, the extraction of nuclear energy requires high construction costs due to complex radiation containment systems and procedures.[[14]](#footnote-14) Furthermore, mining and refining uranium hasn’t been a clean process. The transport of nuclear fuel to and from plants represent a severe environmental hazard.

The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria supports the use of peaceful nuclear energy.[[15]](#footnote-15) The country intends to build its first nuclear power plant by 2025.[[16]](#footnote-16) With sufficient uranium reserves to run two nuclear power plants each for an estimated 60 years, Algeria has major plans for the advancement of nuclear energy.[[17]](#footnote-17) Today, the country extorts 60 per cent of its electricity from natural gas.[[18]](#footnote-18) Algeria has been struggling to keep up with its high electricity demand forcing it to search for solutions to diminish the use of fossil fuels. Additionally, the country believes in the scientific use of nuclear energy. There are currently two nuclear reactors in Draria and Aïn Oussera, which are subject to regular controls of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).[[19]](#footnote-19) The use of civil nuclear energy has permitted the inauguration of several research projects in the fields of agriculture and health within the country.[[20]](#footnote-20)

The main issue regarding the use of nuclear energy is the effects of radioactive waste and nuclear fuel. The majority of detractors claim that nuclear energy should not be used as an alternate source of energy considering the effects of nuclear debris on our environment and health. Radioactive waste management is a substantial concern. Despite the decrease of the fuel’s radioactivity with time, chemical toxicity persists. Nuclear waste disposal or radioactive waste management is an important part of nuclear power generation. To ensure that all nuclear waste is disposed of safely, a number of important guidelines must be followed. To cautiously permit ourselves to use nuclear energy, the intensification of safeguards and detection capabilities for fissionable materials is critical. Lastly, an augmentation in the number of storage facilities needs to be achieved to globalize nuclear energy.

***Topic III:* Measures to implement and enforce the nuclear program in Iran**

On July 14th 2015, the the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, the Russian Federation and the United States, along with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Islamic Republic of Iran gathered to conclude the agreement of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action "JCPOA" with respect to Iran's nuclear program. The Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to implement a series of commitments in relation to limiting its nuclear program in return for a phased lifting of UN, EU and US sanctions targeting Iran all under the terms of the JCPOA. The deal included several general provisions such as reducing its uranium stockpile to 300kg by shipping it or by diluting it as well as permitting UN inspectors to enter any site when they suspect undeclared nuclear activity. However, this deal has alarmed Israel and Iran's neighbors in the Gulf as well as Saudi Arabia, the Sunni-ruled regional rival to Shia Iran, who fears a compromise deal will not stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb.[[21]](#footnote-21)

The People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria’s leaders have publicly backed Iran’s ongoing nuclear program on numerous occasions. Algeria’s prime minister has voiced his support for Iran’s right to peaceful nuclear energy. Iran has previously offered Algeria nuclear expertise in return of the country’s diplomatic overtures.[[22]](#footnote-22) Additionally, the Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted a number of representatives from the Non-Aligned Movement, including Algeria, during a tour in Esfahan near Iran’s uranium conversion facilities are located. That being said, Algeria has yet to formally accept Iran’s offers.[[23]](#footnote-23) Alternatively, the country’s capital, Algiers, has signed bilateral civilian nuclear agreements with countries like Russia and the U.S.[[24]](#footnote-24)

Despite the deal being closed, many countries fear consequences regarding Iran’s nuclear deal. Without a vigorous inspection regime conducted by the IAEA, it is difficult to ensure Iran’s cooperation regarding the restrictions mentioned in the deal. These measures would require a large budget expansion which could be provided by other countries, including those that suspect malicious intentions by Iran, via the IAEA. This way, the nuclear deal will remain in place as long as Iran remains compliant with regular inspections.

1. www.cnn.com [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. www.fmwg.org [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. www.iaea.org [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. www.undocument.net [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. www.fmwg.org [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. www.iaea.org [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. www.worldnuclearnews.com [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. www.puc.iaea [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. www.cnn.com [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)