In*t*ernational Atomic Energy Agency

Saudi Arabia

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I. Addressing The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

With the dramatic rise of terrorist organizations such as the Islamic state it is safe to say that the risk of nuclear terrorism remains very real. It was addressed in the 16th national nuclear summit that measures have been and currently are being implemented to increase security within nuclear power plants in some countries however not all. The main concerns addressed by countries at this time is not that of increasing security for the nuclear power plants but increasing security in the transportation of nuclear materials, “addressing the concern of a black market where nuclear material is coming from central and eastern Europe”[[1]](#footnote-1), and the probability of the construction of dirty bombs if nuclear material is obtained. These situations are far more likely to occur making them a more pressing matter to address for countries at this time. The delegation of Saudi Arabia does not believe nuclear terrorism to pose a huge issue within their country, they have been considered a non-nuclear weapon state to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, not containing any nuclear material that could potentially be ambushed. Saudi Arabia expresses its concerns and support with countries which nuclear attacks are more likely to pose a threat such. At the 16th national nuclear summit they agreed on the grounds of increasing security for these countries with nuclear facilities, and also expressed its cooperation for funding purposes and addressed its concerns in regards to the Brussel attack within France. Saudi Arabia believes in the importance of countries to work together on this matter and to enforce higher security on the grounds of any activity with nuclear materials and will continue providing its support.

II. Nuclear Energy as an Alternative Source of Energy

With the depleting production of oil and raised gas emissions it is time for countries to be looking towards a new source of energy, more specifically the use of nuclear energy. nuclear power plants have a life expectancy of 40 years or more and provide large amounts of low-cost energy. however not all countries view nuclear energy as the future choice of energy productions, the use of nuclear energy could pose more problems in both the higher demand of uranium enrichment and the increase of transportation of nuclear materials to plants providing more opportunities for terrorist attacks and an increase of security. In regards to Saudi Arabia Electricity requirements have dramatically increased within due to a combination of rising consumer and industrial demands and the country’s increasing need for water desalination. Saudi government announced in April 2010 the development of atomic energy was essential to meet the kingdoms growing requirement for energy and reduce reliance on depleting hydrocarbons[[2]](#footnote-2).Saudi Arabia’s plans in developing a nuclear programme began with a signing of a $2 billion dollar contract with south Korea investing in the joint construction of two nuclear reactors in hopes to produce 15% of the country’s electricity. However, their long term goal is set in producing 16 reactors at a cost of over $ 80 billion in hopes of producing and meeting the countries constantly increasing energy demand. Saudi Arabia is an advocate for the implementation of nuclear power programs and the use of nuclear energy as an alternative source of energy.

III. Measures to Implement the Nuclear Programme In Iran

After years of negotiations an agreement was finally reached on Iran’s nuclear program between Iran and the P5 + 1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States). The agreement known as the joint comprehensive plan of action aims to ensure Iran’s nuclear program is used solely for peaceful purposes. Iran’s removal of its nuclear power program and implementation of sanctions was as a result of their rapidly growing nuclear program and country power and is what countries fear will return now that the sanctions are being lifted and their program is being allowed to run once again even though this time it is being run under higher security. The delegation of Saudi Arabia fears Iran’s nuclear deal will allow Iran to fund proxy wars and extend its regional influence. [[3]](#footnote-3) The removal of the sanctions will provide the Islamic republic with more money to fund groups in the region and allow the country to restructure itself as a growing co- dominant power in the middle east. As an effect Saudi Arabia has made it publically know that if Iran breaks the deal and weaponizes its program that they will have no other choice than to do the same. Saudi Arabia’s fear that there neighbouring state will become a threshold state and will not comply with the joint comprehensive plan for the duration of the probation period and Saudi has expressed its concerns and actions that will be taken both for their country and their allies.

Muhammad Garwan, K.A.CARE, Nov 2013, Sustainable Energy Mix for Saud

1. Julia Dunmont, “Is Nuclear Terrorism A Real Threat?” France 24, accessed October 8, 2016, http://www.france24.com/en/20160401-nuclear-terrorism-islamic-state-paris-brussels-attacks. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Muhammad Garwan, “Nuclear Power In Saudi Arabia,” K. A. CARE, accessed October 6, 2016, http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-o-s/saudi-arabia.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Loveday Morris, “ Arab states Fear Nuclear Deal Will Give Iran A Bigger Regional Role,”the Washington post , accessed October 6, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\_east/arab-states-fear-dangerous-iranian-nuclear-deal-will-shake-up-region/2015/07/14/96d68ff3-7fce-4bf5-9170-6bcc9dfe46aa\_story.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)