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According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, atomic energy is the energy that is released through a nuclear reaction or radioactive decay process. Atomic energy is a global issue: ranging from threats of nuclear terrorism, to being an alternate source of energy, and to measures being implemented to enforce the nuclear program in Iran because of its ambitious use in atomic energy. This issue is complex and important: nuclear energy has developed immensely compared to when it was used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and with the rapid increase in the world’s population, any possible terrorist nuclear attack is likely to be much worse than anything that the world has ever seen to this date.

The creation of the IAEA in 1957, also known as the world’s “Atoms for Peace”, is an international organization created in response “to the great fears and expectations incited by the role that nuclear energy played in political events in the 1950’s.” Their purpose is to promote and accelerate “the contribution atomic energy makes to peace, health, and prosperity throughout the world and serve as a global platform for collaboration.” “The International Atomic Energy Agency is in charge of making sure that the treaties signed by the international community in relation to the usage and safety of nuclear energy are respected and followed. These treaties include: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Treaty of Tlatelolco (the Latin American Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Pelindaba (the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Bangkok (the ASEAN Nuclear Weapon Free Zone), the Treaty of Rarotonga (the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone) and the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon Free Zone (CANWFZ) Treaty. Through these treaties, as an inter-governmental agency, the IAEA works only as the authority to make recommendations.

Given the dangerous consequences and impact of nuclear weapons, The Republic of Cameroon, on behalf of the African group “believes that the concept of the Pillars of Nuclear

disarmament and Non-Proliferation are both important and mutually reinforcing”, as H.E. Tommo Monthe ambassador and permanent representative of the republic of Cameroon on behalf of the African group states parties to the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons has stated to the review conference of the parties to the treaty on the non-proliferation nuclear weapons. Cameroon encourages the Nuclear Weapon States and the other remaining states to limit and decrease the production of nuclear weapons. The Republic of Cameroon also feels it is critical that nuclear disarmament be achieved, as nuclear weapons represents the greatest threat to humanity. Concerning the issue on nuclear power, The Republic of Cameroon does not possess nor operate nuclear power programs. However, we encourage proper nuclear usage and stress the international requirements in the domain of nuclear safety. The Republic of Cameroon has established a National Radiation Protection Agency since the Fukushima nuclear accident. This will serve as a national nuclear regulatory body.

As stated by H.E. Tommo Monthe, ambassador and permanent representative of the republic of Cameroon, The Republic of Cameroon believes that in order for nuclear disarmament to be achieved, countries must participate in multilateral negotiations, as it will be the most effective in these matters and in International peace and security. In order to prevent nuclear warfare in the future, The Republic of Cameroon believes countries within the Nuclear Weapon States must follow religiously all their obligations and commitments under signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This means refraining from assisting or developing new types of nuclear weapons, and guarantee unconditionally, that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states. As well, The Republic of Cameroon believes in the importance of the Nuclear Weapon States and the other remaining states to ratify unconditionally the Treaty Protocols. Under the same light, The Republic of Cameroon “wishes to stress the need for the commitment of developed countries to facilitate and assist the legitimate development of nuclear energy of the developing countries by allowing them to participate to the fullest in the possible transfer of nuclear equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for peaceful purposes with a view to achieving maximum benefits and applying pertinent sustainable development in their health, industry, agriculture and other development related activities.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/statements/pdf/cameroon\_en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)