Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency 2017

Topic: Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy

Country: South Africa

Delegate: Graeme Mounsey

School: Appleby College

The world’s energy consumption has been rapidly increasing since the 1940’s, and as our main source of energy- fossil fuels, continues to dwindle and efforts to slow global warming become increasingly urgent, the search for an alternative becomes more necessary. South Africa recognizes this issue, and is focusing on increasing its usage of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is not currently our main source of energy, but it still a prominent source of energy in South Africa, with the Koeburg Nuclear Power Plant accounting for 4% of the country's generated nuclear power. So far, there are only two nuclear reactors operating in South Africa, which are Koeburg 1 and 2. Multiple new nuclear reactors have been proposed and are being discussed, and would be expected to begin producing power in 2024-2030.

South Africa recognizes that we must increase the usage of alternative energy sources, such as nuclear energy. South Africa’s energy demand will have doubled by 2030. My country is committed to the expansion of nuclear energy as a main source of energy, with plans for expansion and investment in nuclear energy over the next few years. To give effect to this, we have allocated funding to nuclear energy projects and signed deals with other countries to develop nuclear reactors in South Africa. In the May 2011 budget speech, the energy minister stated the budget also provided R586 million ($85 million) for the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA) "to continue with its central role as the anchor for nuclear energy research and development and innovation." NECSA has signed constructive agreements with Russia, China and France with the common goal of developing new nuclear reactors in mind. These agreements will help tremendously with the financing of the new reactors. If the new reactors are constructed, we would be able to generate an additional 9.6 GWe through nuclear energy.

South Africa believes that the future of energy is dependent on nuclear energy, as it is a safe, reliable alternative source of energy. South Africa has partnered with countries around the world to augment their nuclear energy usage. South Africa is committed to the responsible expansion of nuclear energy as a viable alternative energy.

South Africa is actively involved in the growth and development of nuclear power. We are dedicated to the responsible use of nuclear energy, as we are signatory to every major nuclear convention including *The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* (CPPNM) and *The Convention on Nuclear Safety*. The African Commission on Nuclear Energy is established in South Africa, a great example of our strong involvement in Africa’s decisions regarding nuclear energy. In conclusion, South Africa is one of the most supportive and open-minded countries when it comes to nuclear energy as an alternative source of energy.

Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency 2017

Topic: Addressing The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

Country: South Africa

Delegate: Graeme Mounsey

School: Appleby College

Nuclear terrorism is a very controversial subject, as each country has had their own experience with it. Some countries have witnessed the effects of it on their citizens, while others are responsible. South Africa has a very unique perspective on the issue, with it being the only country to have built nuclear weapons and then voluntarily dismantled them. South Africa recognizes the serious threat that nuclear weapons and, by extension nuclear terrorism represents, and completely understands that critical actions must be made to prevent it. Since South Africa renounced its nuclear weapons program in 1991, it has focused on increasing and bettering its nonproliferation efforts, and the disposal of its leftover highly-enriched uranium (HEU). So far, both projects have been progressing well.

Nuclear terrorism is a very serious threat, that is taken very seriously by South Africa. The thought of some radical terrorist group having the power to wipe an entire city of the map seems preposterous, but could very well happen if we aren't careful and don't take necessary preventative measures. South Africa is working to minimize its quantity of HEU, due to it being the main component in nuclear bombs, and is also considered a champion when it comes to nonproliferation efforts, as they have completely abstained from any sort of development of nuclear weapons. In 2008, the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation (NECSA) with help from U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, were able to convert the SAFARI-1 research reactor to utilize low-enriched uranium (LEU) instead of HEU, reducing the need for HEU and therefore minimizing the quantity. South Africa has also come a long way in terms of political stance on nuclear weapons: It has gone from having six functional nuclear bombs with plans on constructing a seventh, to signing the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, which bans South Africa from developing nuclear weapons. South Africa sets an example for other countries with nuclear weapons, and shows that peace is the path to follow.

South Africa’s solution to address the threat of nuclear terrorism can be summed up by the quote from Mahatma Ghandi: “be the change you wish to see in the world”. South Africa is focused on bettering itself, so that it is able to help others. It is ridding itself of HUE so that it doesn’t possess the materials needed to create an atomic bomb, and no one is able to steal those resources either. It is also striving to be an example of peace for its fellow countries by abstaining from nuclear weapons, showing that they are unnecessary and only get in the way of peace. By making itself into an example of change, they are inspiring others to do the same.

South Africa is party to an array of conventions and treaties regarding nuclear warfare and/or nuclear weapons, such as the Convention On Nuclear safety, Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and The Pelindaba Treaty, all in the interest of prohibiting the development, possession and usage of nuclear weapons.

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Country: South Africa

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