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.

Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency 2017

Topic: Implementing the Nuclear Program in Iran

Country: South Africa

Delegate: Graeme Mounsey

School: Appleby College

The topic of implementing the nuclear program into Iran is not one that the delegation of South Africa is incredibly involved in, or is of much relevance to South Africa either, but we would still like to give our opinion on the situation. The delegation of South Africa believes that, due to the history of Iran’s nuclear program, their nuclear activities should be regulated and monitored by the UN and the IAEA. But on the other hand, if Iran truly wishes to produce and use nuclear energy, that is not something we should be prohibiting, especially considering how efficient it is, which is something we are trying to educate people about, but it must still be regulated by the UN and the IAEA for the reasons mentioned earlier.

The situation in Iran is a tricky one: The history of their nuclear program doesn’t favor their argument, and their actions have caused international tensions, but we must establish an agreement for the future of our nations. Iran’s nuclear program began in 1957, with an agreement on nuclear cooperation with the United States under the Atoms for Peace program. The nuclear program was eventually suspended, but later restarted after the Iran-Iraq war. In 1985, Iran began developing a gas centrifuge program in secret, relying on suppliers abroad to acquire the materials needed. Iran continued its research into nuclear weapons throughout the 90’s and early 2000’s. Eventually, the IAEA began inspecting Iran’s nuclear facilities. In 2004, Iran and the Eu-3 signed the Paris agreement, which suspended Iran’s nuclear activities temporarily, allowing the IAEA to inspect further, revealing more secret nuclear-related facilities. Tensions began to rise when Iran refused to halt its nuclear activity, and continued forwards with it. As countries became suspicious of Iran’s intentions, they also became worried for their own safety. Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates was quoted saying “Iran’s actions destabilized the region” So it’s understandable why the IAEA would like to investigate further into Iran’s nuclear activities- so that Iran isn’t able to cause any sort of damage using nuclear weapons. But as long as the IAEA is strictly monitoring their nuclear activities the delegation of South Africa sees no problem with them using nuclear energy within Iran.

In conclusion, the delegation of South Africa understands the history of Iran’s nuclear program, and recognizes that their actions are causing tension, which is why we support the regulation of Iran’s nuclear activities by the IAEA, but would still permit Iran the use of nuclear energy- as it is an efficient source of energy- the use of which, we should be encouraging, not prohibiting.