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**Topic I: The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

Since its introduction into warfare, nuclear weapons have constantly posed a threat to the international community. Nuclear terrorism is defined as an act that uses radioactive material with the intent to cause death, bodily harm, damage to property or the environment, or to compel a change of opinion. With the rise in power of terrorist groups, the possibility of nuclear terrorism becomes greater every day, jeopardizing the safety of global citizens. Nuclear weapons cause lethal damage that last for decades, as the emitted radiation make the affected areas inhabitable for years. As quite possibly the most dangerous weapon to date, the prohibition of nuclear warfare is an international concern that must be enforced.

The Republic of the Congo recognizes the importance of banning nuclear-weaponry, having signed the Treaty of Pelindaba in 1997, which establishes a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in Africa, as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1997. In response its ratification of the CTBT Treaty, the Congo government released a statement: “We must move beyond words, and act. This conference in Vienna [for the CTBT Organization] should lead to an action plan aimed at creating a legally binding instrument totally banning nuclear weapons.” As a recovering country from decades of being in a state of conflict, the Republic of Congo understands the toil of war on both the international and local community, and supports complete banishment of nuclear weapons in hopes of preventing nuclear terrorism.

The Republic of the Congo supports further action in combatting nuclear terrorism, pushing for higher security of nuclear facilities and state production secrets. If terrorist groups are able to attack nuclear facilities, it can result into explosions of nuclear material into civilian territory. As well, if government information on the production and development of nuclear weapons become accessible to terror groups or other members of the public, they may become available on the black market. Although the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism addresses preventative security measures, the Republic of the Congo believes that stronger enforcement of this will contribute to the prevention of nuclear terrorism, and the overall safety of civilians in all states of the United Nations.

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

Research has proven that nuclear energy is safe and efficient, and produces fewer greenhouse gases than oil and coal – the world’s current leading sources of energy. However, because of lack of resources and funding, as well as the dispute over waste storage, only 11% of the world’s energy is produced through nuclear power, with the vast majority of it only occurring in developed countries. The Republic of the Congo does not produce any of the world’s nuclear energy, and relies on other energy sources to power the country.

As Congo leads Africa’s recent, rapid urban growth, the demand for energy in the country is rising. Since its ratification of the Convention of the African Energy Commission, Congo has declared adherence to the development and use of sustainable energy. Currently, the Republic of the Congo relies on crude oil as its primary source of energy. However, Congo recognizes the disadvantages of petroleum energy’s limited availability and negative effect on the environment. Nuclear energy is an ideal alternative for the country, as it much cleaner than oil, and has proven success in many other countries such as France.

Nonetheless, advances with nuclear energy in developing countries can only be made if kept in mind when making international decisions. Of the 444 operating nuclear reactors in the world today, only one is located in Africa, and there are none under construction. As well, this form of energy is expensive, costing around $6 billion to $10 billion for a nuclear reactor. Currently, 70% of Congo’s population lives in poverty, making it difficult for the country to focus on nuclear energy until their economic issues are resolved.

Despite the country’s situation, the Republic of the Congo still contributes to the international community’s discussion of nuclear power through projects for the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development & Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology, focusing on education and research, and hopes of one day being able to access nuclear power.

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**Topic III: Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran**

Iran’s failure to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the IAEA’s requests, along with their hiding of nuclear activities, has created a sense of fear and distrust in regards to global nuclear activity. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) serves as an agreement between Iran and members of the United Nations in order to ensure nuclear security, and prevent the secret development of nuclear weaponry.

As Iran has shown evidence of developing nuclear weapons for military use, the JCPOA targets it by having Iran eliminate the majority of its medium and low-enriched uranium, and be restricted to solely one facility to work. The deterrence of Iran’s development of nuclear weapons is the major concern according the majority of world leaders, as addressed by U.S. President Barack Obama in a letter: “… when it comes to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. As I have repeatedly emphasized, my Administration will take whatever means are necessary to achieve that goal, including military means. Should Iran seek to dash toward a nuclear weapon, all of the options available to the United States – including the military option – will remain available through the life of the deal and beyond.” The Republic of the Congo supports the stance of the P5+1 in the JCPOA, as the country has always held a strong position against nuclear proliferation.

Iran’s reputation on the IAEA world stage has been greatly and negatively affected by their previous actions, but it is possible for them to reclaim a respectable name. The first step is to completely abide by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, instilling to other nations that they can be trustworthy. As well, steps to improve security of their nuclear research and development should be taken, to avoid the risk of unintentional government-assisted nuclear terrorism. Although there are nations who disagree with the formation of the JCPOA, their concerns can be addressed by member states through open communication. To prevent the repetition of Iran’s actions, the Republic of Congo, along with the other 167 states of the IAEA, requires complete transparency when discussing nuclear activity – ensuring the safety of citizens worldwide.