

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

**Norway: Position Paper**

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**Topic 001: Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism**

1. **Introduction**

Nuclear terrorism is unequivocally among the most pressing concerns related to terrorism today. Specific concerns associated with the overarching issue include attacks on nuclear facilities, weapons accumulation, the use of nuclear weapons for mass-destructive purposes, weapons delivery/smuggling, and entities (state/non-state) particularly exposed to/conducting this form of terrorism. Norway is fully dedicated to sustained cooperation with member states and continued commitment to the issue to resolve it. While past action has been executed as a response to the issue, Norway believes that additional discourse/action needs to be taken on the matter to more effectively address the concerns and risks associated with nuclear terrorism going forward.

1. **Past Actions**

Norway in conjunction with the IAEA has demonstrated a strong track-record of anti-nuclear terrorism initiative. The most notable testaments of this are Norway’s ratification of treaties such as the *Nuclear Terrorism Convention* (*2005)* and the *Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* *(2005).* The political stability, effective governance, lack of corruption, and lack of groups interested in nuclear-terrorism in Norway are all factors which allow for strong anti-nuclear terrorism measures, domestically and abroad. This is further supported by Norway garnering a score of 83/100 (5th globally) in terms of its nuclear security and prevention from theft and sabotage by NTI’s Nuclear Security Index.

Anti-nuclear terrorism measures taken by Norway include minimizing usage of highly-enriched uranium (HEU; potentially weaponizable) as a fuel source, cooperating closely with Sweden, Russia, and Ukraine to ensure that nuclear/radiological sources do not fall into the wrong hands, providing extraordinary funding to the IAEA’s monitoring and implementation of the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015)*, hosting the World Institute for Nuclear Security’s workshop in 2014, participating in the annual Nuclear Security Summit, and more. Evidently, through past actions in conjunction with the IAEA and other international bodies, Norway has demonstrated a sustained commitment to anti-nuclear terrorism initiatives.

1. **Policies and Proposed Solutions**

In addition to initiatives concerning nuclear security as mentioned in **Part B.**, Norway firmly believes that the solution to this issue is not isolationist, and must be done in conjunction with continued gradual nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament (as per NPT). The reasoning behind this is quite simple, and is shared by many nations globally: nuclear terrorism is directly correlated to the prevalence of nuclear weapons. Therefore, Norway suggests that a single policy/resolution that encompasses nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, and security/counter-terrorism together be advised in the upcoming assembly.

In addition, a lack of cooperation from state-actors (i.e.- Iran and North Korea) serves as a deterrent to fully resolving the issue, as the nations are difficult to enter and stability is lacking (particularly in the latter). Because there’s an inextricable bond between state and non-state nuclear terrorism (e.g.- delivery/smuggling from the former to the latter), it is crucial that non-compliant state-actors become compliant to substantially reduce the funnelling of nuclear devices to non-state terrorist groups (i.e.- Al Qaeda, ISIS, Boko Haram, etc.), to create a more stable international community free from nuclear terrorism.

**Topic 002: Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy**

1. **Introduction**

Nuclear energy has been actively used to meet global energy needs for several decades. As producers continue to move away from depleting and unsustainable energy sources such as coal and oil, many consider nuclear energy as the likely successor. This can be said based on the following factors: innovative history and development, sustainable life cycle of nuclear fuel, strong levels of safety in nuclear reactors, environmental and economic sustainability, and enhanced public perceptions of nuclear fuel. The conflict arises however when detractors assert that the benefits of nuclear energy in these facets ultimately weigh less than the associated harms or cons within those same aspects. Norway, though currently lacking in prevalence of it, firmly believes that nuclear energy is the key to maximizing our global future energy potential.

1. **Past Actions**

Norway does not currently have any operational nuclear power plants (though four for research), as they rely on hydropower for over 90% of their energy requirement currently. However, the viability of nuclear energy is increasing alongside Norway’s energy demand, and licensing and infrastructure for such projects are currently in place. Norway is actively among 45 countries, developed and developing, without nuclear programs that are considering their implementation, specifically using thorium in existing research reactors. Thorium is a radioactive metal that is widely considered a viable alternative to uranium in the fission process for nuclear energy. Furthermore, with regards to the most salient issues associated with nuclear energy (e.g.- waste management, potential health effects), Norway firmly believes that current technology, as well as innovation itself will be responsible in the coming years for mitigating and eliminating these issues. Norway believes that overall, the economic, environmental, and energy-related benefits of nuclear energy make it a viable alternative energy resource for the future.

While the IAEA has repeatedly condoned the development of alternate energy sources using nuclear energy, no concrete, independent, specific resolutions have been implemented specifically related to the topic itself. Possible policies/solutions will be discussed in-depth in the following paragraph.

1. **Proposed Solutions and Policies**

Norway is currently developing the infrastructure to rely heavily on nuclear energy (particularly thorium-based) going forward. However, Norway realizes that not all countries have the capacity, capital, or general resources to do so (especially those which are developing). Thus, Norway sees it as most imperative that the IAEA develop a general, broad, widely-applicable infrastructure/resource base for developing countries that may wish to undertake the costly nuclear-related projects (i.e.- reactor building) going forward. Furthermore, Norway recognizes that it must work in conjunction with the IAEA and member countries to discuss/do the following at the upcoming assembly: eliminating any negative perception around nuclear energy (e.g.- through ad campaigns), enhancing the level of safety of reactors (through STEM), general continued technological development/improvement (STEM), increasing sustainability (economic and environmental; perhaps by working to lower construction/setup cost for the former and reducing likelihood of waste leakage for the latter), and enhancing the fuel cycle of nuclear energy.

**Topic 003: Measures to Implement and Enforce the Nuclear Program in Iran**

1. **Introduction**

Iran is currently among the most dangerous and unpredictable nuclear state actors in our modern time. Their continued, incessant non-compliance and lack of cooperation on this matter is a definite global cause for concern. Norway recognizes that resolutions (see below paragraph) are currently in place to set the precedent for Iran’s nuclear program with regards to uranium enrichment, stockpile quotas, transparency, sanctions, funding, provisional incentives, and more, but additional discourse and action is required at the upcoming assembly concerning this matter to better address it going forward. Norway believes that sanction easing, if done correctly, could be a viable solution for this issue going forward, alongside continued compliance monitoring.

1. **Past Action**

As touched on briefly in the introductory paragraph, the two landmark resolutions associated with this issue are those of the *Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Act (1970))* and the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015).* Either served as an attempt at regulating Iran’s clandestine nuclear program for the benefit of the insecure international community. In the past, Iran’s adherence to the resolutions, particularly the former, has been highly questionable. Despite intervention (i.e.- sanctions) on the part of the UN Security Council urged by the IAEA, Iran has continuously violated the statutes associated with each resolution. Due to this utter lack of compliance and cooperation, it is easy to see how past resolutions may have been ineffective in addressing the problem. Furthermore, detractors would cite ‘weak western negotiators’ as an additional element, but Norway does not believe that this is the case. Norway has ratified each of the former resolutions, and provided substantial funding, personnel, and other resources towards upholding the statutes of the each of the resolutions (e.g.- inspections, surveillance resources, etc.) in Iran. Norway has hailed the *JPCOA* as a ‘historic deal’, as it will pave the way for economic and political growth incentives for Iran. However, Norway simultaneously realizes that there must be a balance in place between the lifting of sanctions/incentive provisions, as well as correspondence on the part of Iran.

1. **Policies and Proposed Solutions**

Norway plans to continue efforts to support both the *JPCOA,* as well as the *NPT,* specifically with regards to Iran. Furthermore, Norway supports the idea of the continued, responsible lifting of sanctions and additional provisional incentives (e.g.- funds, commodities, etc.). This would better economic and political tensions between Iran and the rest of the world, thus likely resulting in a more amicable relationship and curbing Iran’s malicious nuclear intentions. However, Norway understands that if taken too far, this may result in Iran taking advantage of these new resources while continuing their illicit, covert, nuclear weaponization activities. Thus, vigilance on the matter must be observed by the IAEA, Norway, and other member states.

In terms of what could be done differently, resolutions need to be proposed which enhance the process of compliance (i.e.- increased surveillance, inspections, etc.) with respect to Iran’s nuclear program to boost transparency and international confidence, being able to finance these enhancements (e.g.- collective agreements for increased funding among countries), extending the time of the resolution *JPCOA* resolution beyond 10 years, enhancements to the negotiation process, and more to be discussed in-depth at the upcoming assembly.

**E. Conclusion**

Norway envisions a bright future for nuclear energy in aggregate. However, on the path to this bright future, care must be taken to ensure that nuclear terrorism, nuclear energy as a sustainable energy source, and strict protocols regarding weaponization of nuclear energy by state-actors (e.g.- Iran, North Korea, etc.) is mitigated and ultimately eliminated. Norway’s stance on nuclear terrorism is simple: address it using a non-isolationist approach alongside disarmament and non-proliferation, and eliminate possible state/non-state deterrents. Norway firmly believes that nuclear energy is the future of alternative energy, and believes so based on factors such as strong safety mechanisms, continuous innovation/technological innovation eliminating current problems, economic and environmental sustainability, and more. Finally, with regards to implementing measures to enforce the nuclear program in Iran, Norway wishes to continue responsible lifting of sanctions and provisions of incentives, while simultaneously enhancing compliance, extending the time-frame of the resolution, planning inter-governmental financing for provisional incentives and overhead costs associated with the program, as well as refine current negotiation mechanisms. Through the accomplishment of these things in conjunction with the IAEA, Norway firmly believes that the path to a sustainable future with nuclear energy would become evermore possible.

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