Committee: International Atomic Energy Agency

Country: Luxembourg

Ever since its discovery in 1932, atomic energy has become a ubiquitous topic of discussion on the global stage; it has been, simultaneously, the subject of much interest and controversy. Shortly after it was found to be a valid source of energy, its potential as a weapon was brought to light. While nuclear power has faced incredible innovation throughout the nine decades since its discovery, both in the efficiency of the generation of the energy, which has seen an unprecedented increase in yield and steady decrease in manufacturing cost, and in the safety measures surrounding its production, it would be erroneous to say that this means of producing electricity is without flaw. Luxembourg, along with other states, remains aware of the dangers of underestimating the potential dangers of nuclear energy, particularly if it happened to fall into the wrong hands.

Today, nuclear power provides over 11% of the world’s electricity. In total, there are more than 440 commercial nuclear power reactors operable in 31 countries, with approximately 60 more reactors under construction. This continuously growing sector has been recognized by many scientists as a sustainable source of energy which, compared to the combustion of fossil fuels, emits a considerably smaller amount of greenhouse gasses. While Luxembourg does not have any reactors within its borders, the nuclear activity of its close neighbours, notably France and Belgium who have reactors near the borders they share with Luxembourg, has been the leading reason for Luxembourg’s participation in the discussion on atomic energy on the global stage. In addition, Luxembourg is strongly dependent on primary energy imports, with dependency rates over 90%. Since 2008, Luxembourg has made progress towards strengthening its energy supply security and developing sustainable energy supplies, and cannot deny the many benefits of nuclear energy. However, Luxembourg strongly believes that for this to be a feasible source of energy, the operation and upkeep of such facilities should be highly regimented, to prevent disasters caused by such events as nuclear meltdowns

Furthermore, the delegation of Luxembourg believes in the reinforcement of the protection of the infrastructures to ensure the security of the nuclear reactors in the event of a terrorist attack, as well as the implementation of a global initiative to obligate states to denounce terrorist activity. Additionally, Luxemburg is a strong advocate for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the Non-Proliferation treaty as well as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

It is of the utmost concern to Luxembourg that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action’s amendments be respected, to not only ensure the security of Luxembourg's population but the global population as well. The delegation of Luxembourg believes that in order to obtain the instilment of global peace and prosperity, states, such as Iran, should be subject to the Non-proliferation treaty, which, while stipulating a ban on testing, using and possessing nuclear arms, still allows them to maintain their rights to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, Luxembourg strongly admonishes Iran for disrespecting certain clauses in the agreement, and demands that harsher sanctions be put in place, to allow new, strong economic relations with this country to be made.

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