OmanInternational Atomic Energy Agency

short line

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5th November, 2016

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Topic A: Addressing the Threat of Nuclear Terrorism

While nuclear war is no longer as much of a threat as it used to be, nuclear terrorism is becoming more and more of a relevant concern. The big problem is terrorist organisations purchasing nuclear material through the black market and then being able to produce their own warheads. While Oman has been spared from much of the militant Islamist violence that has affected the other countries in the region, it does realise nuclear terrorism will inevitably be destructive to the whole region. The delegation of Oman sees this as a huge threat to safety in the middle east to to already unstable governments especially in democracies like turkey and lebanon. However, there are measures every country can take to increase security of nuclear materials and therefore limiting access to terrorist organisations. These actions include: Being more transparent with the nuclear material in which they possess. To make this transparency a reality we need the historically nuclear power countries that are part of the P5+1 to take the lead. Countries like Oman have taken the responsibility as not to start nuclear programs and does strongly rely on countries like China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States to take initiative when it comes to transparency and not only show a good example but set the bar for what is expected.

Topic B: Nuclear Energy as an Alternate Source of Energy

Oman believes that while historically it has relied on oil and continues to benefit from this industry, it has dropped to only the 25th in the world, therefore the delegation is open joining other countries to take steps to find reliable reusable energy and getting ahead of its neighbors. Nuclear power remains the safest form of generating electricity and even with Omans small population of 3.632 milion and low technological needs, the country is extremely interested in continuing to grow its economy through energy production. Therefore nuclear power is seen much less as a form of support for the Oman’s energy needs and more a great opportunity to grow. Under the 40 year rule of Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Oman’s prime minister, he has consistently used oil revenues to develop the country’s infrastructure and if the country transitioned to nuclear power, the revenues from that will assuredly also contribute to infrastructure. In 2011, there was a rare pro-democracy outbreak in Oman and in order to resolve the frustration more jobs were promised to the population. A robust nuclear energy program would allow Oman to deliver on these promises. Even with the proposed multitude of billion dollar investment and decades to be able to return on that initial investment, Oman does not see this as a hurdle. The country has the money to invest and also strongly believes that with the help of huge global powers we can shorten the waiting time for return on investment. The delegation of Oman sees the recent steady drop in the cost of uranium and increased efficiency of the enrichment process as valid reasons to start a nuclear program in the near future.

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

Unlike other Arab states, Oman has a close partnership with Iran and it is in the country’s best interest to maintain that strong relationship. This relationship dates back to the 1970s when Iran came to the assistance of Oman facing a rebellion with 4 000 troops and lost 700 soldiers in the conflict. This sacrifice is definitely not forgotten by the people of Oman and still widely respected around the country. In addition, the two countries share a straight that traffics 30% of the world's oil exports by water. As most of the Arab states support Iraq in the Iran-Iraq conflict, Oman decides to keep a peaceful stance and therefore refuses to take a side. It is logical to assume Oman will not directly side against Iran at any point during the implementation and enforcement of the nuclear program in Iran. In contrast, it is also viable that Oman would benefit from the stability of no Arab states having access to nuclear weapons as it does not, and this would bring more stability to the region.

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