

**Country:** People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria

**Committee:** IAEA

**Agenda Item:** Technology Infrastructure for Prevention,

Detection and Responses Regarding Nuclear Security

Algeria, officially the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, is a State of North Africa which is a part of the Maghreb. It is the biggest country lining the Mediterranean Sea and the vaster first one of Africa. It shares ground borders in the northeast with Tunisia, in the East with Libya, in the South with Niger and Mali, in the southwest with Mauritania and territory of the Western Sahara, and on the West with Morocco. Algeria is a member of the United Nations (UN), of the African Union (AU) and the League of Arab States almost since independence in 1962. It joined the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1969.

Over the past few centuries, the availability and advancement of energy sources has changed the course of human history. The amount of energy we can produce and consume has grown significantly, guided by the development of new energy sources such as fossil fuels, nuclear power, hydropower, and other renewable technologies. However, demand for energy is growing worldwide as people become wealthier and populations increase. İf this rising demand is not addressed through improvements such as transitioning our energy systems away from fossil fuels and trying to replace existing fossil fuels in the energy mix -which is currently 91.5%- the pressure on the environment will continue to ascend, worsening climate change and lack of natural resources.

Nuclear energy, as a stable and scalable low-carbon technology, is uniquely positioned to help bridge the gap between growing energy demand and climate goals. Unlike intermittent renewables such as wind and solar, nuclear power provides a reliable base load of electricity, ensuring energy security while reducing reliance on fossil fuels. But use of nuclear energy comes with both opportunities and challenges. While nuclear energy offers a reliable, low-carbon solution for electricity generation, it also comes with significant risks, particularly regarding nuclear proliferation and security. Nuclear technology can be used for both peaceful and military purposes,as materials and processes used in peaceful nuclear programs, like enriching uranium or recycling spent fuel, can also be used for military purposes, such as making nuclear weapons. Establishing effective safeguards is necessary for nations with growing nuclear programs to guarantee accountability and transparency. However, it can be challenging to effectively carry out these precautions in areas with political instability, poor infrastructure, or a lack of experience. This provides weaknesses that could be used for terrorism or nuclear proliferation.

Algeria, as a country committed to the peaceful use of nuclear energy has long been an advocate for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmement, as evidenced by its signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Soon thereafter, Algeria was among the first countries to sign the Treaty of Pelindaba, which established the African continent as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. In international fora, Algeria has been a strong advocate for Article VI of the NPT and nuclear disarmament. The Permanent Representative of Algeria, H.E. Ms Taous Feroukhi, today made a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Mr Wolfgang Hoffmann, to mark Algeria's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 11 July 2003. Algeria signed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 20 September 2017.Algeria also signed a pact with Russian company Rosatom in March 2024 to assist development in the areas of peaceful nuclear energy, research reactors, and the nuclear fuel cycle

Algeria possesses a small civil nuclear research program, and currently operates two research reactors -Nur and Es-Salam Reactors- under IAEA safeguards and supervised by the Commissariat à l’énergie atomique (Atomic Energy Commission). Algeria uses the Nur Reactor for the laboratory-scale production of radioisotopes, research in neutron physics, and the training of reactor-operating personnel. As with the Nur reactor, Algeria uses the Es-Salam Reactor for the production of radioisotopes, research in neutron physics, and the training of reactor-operating personnel. The IAEA first inspected the reactor in January 1992, and a facility-specific safeguards agreement was signed the following month. Algeria concluded a full-scope safeguards agreement with the IAEA in 1995 after it had ratified the NPT. On 16 February 2018, Algeria signed an additional protocol to its comprehensive safeguards agreement with the IAEA.

Algeria’s firm stance on nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy is deeply rooted in its historical experience as a country impacted by nuclear tests.

From 1961 to 1967, France conducted 17 nuclear test explosions in Algerian desert, precisely in “Reggane” and “In Eker.” The catastrophic effects of these tests continue to impact the population and the environment to this day.leaving a legacy of environmental devastation and health problems. Thousands of soldiers, nuclear program workers, and the local Tuareg population were exposed to radioactivity directly from the nuclear tests. The entire region was also exposed to significant levels of nuclear fallout that blanketed the area following the tests. Elevated levels of atmospheric radioactivity were detected as far away as the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, 3,200 km from Reggane, where testing had occurred.

The health and environmental legacy of these tests was made worse by the fact that for decades, the level of radiation from these tests – and even their precise locations – remained classified. Local populations were left to contend with their effects without even basic information about the threat they faced. Their effects included increased cases of cancer, birth defects and radiation related illnesses in affected regions.

This painful experience is one of the reasons of Algeria’s persistent commitment to promote nuclear security, environmental accountability and peaceful use of nuclear energy.To sustain these principals and share them with other nations Algeria proposes the actions below:

* Expanding the use of Additional Protocol to guarantee transparency and potentially stop the diversion of nuclear materials for military purposes
* Supporting actions to prevent the illegal trafficking of nuclear materials and technologies, strenghtening nuclear security infrastructure in vulnerable and underdeveloped regions.
* Enhancing the role of the **I**AEA in monitoring and verifying nuclear programs globally
* Offering financial support and capacity-building programs, especially for developing nations to help effectively implement IAEA safeguards.
* Promoting investment and funding in nuclear infrastructure and organizations that help nuclear development to make nuclear energy safer, more efficient ,accesible and transition to low-carbon energy systems.
* Encouraging international cooperation between nations on non-proliferation education and awareness in order to build nuclear responsibility
* Offering plans for environmental cleanup and health assistance for populations affected by nuclear tests,.
* Strengthening global cyber-nuclear security and response capabilities.

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