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## **Strengthening the SSAC Capabilities through the Establishment of a Safeguards Laboratory (SGL).**

Algeria fully supports the implementation of safeguards, as required by its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the IAEA since 1996. The Atomic Energy Commission (COMENA) is designated as the competent authority for the implementation of this agreement; indeed COMENA is responsible for Safety, Security and Safeguards.

The State System of Accounting for and Control (SSAC) is composed of many components. It is more effective and efficient to address individual components, rather than the entire system at one time. Within the objective of strengthening the system as a whole in mind, the nuclear material accountancy is one of these components.

The control and the accountancy of nuclear material is part of the requirements of the CSA, COMENA periodically holds, through its (SSAC), an exhaustive inventory of its materials and record changes in that inventory between inventory periods.

To better perform these activities, the conformity of inventory declaration is a national and international requirement. With this respect COMENA has set up the safeguards laboratory (SGL) as a technical support structure for the SSAC. The SGL applied methodology is in compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guidelines. Its staff perform independent material characterization, maintain nondestructive assay equipment, and facilitate practical training of inspectors.

The objective of the SGL is to support the training of national inspectors in practical terms by applying safeguards inspection methodologies and measurement techniques, also to train operators to implement procedures and monitoring control and accounting at the level nuclear facilities.

Under the framework of cooperation between COMENA and (INSEP) / NNSA/DOE a joint roadmap was established in order to define the capacities and the needs of COMENA for the enhancement of the COMENA SGL. A national inspector training in the field of safeguards was also included.

In order to maintain the operational sustainability of the SGL, it is necessary to have a qualified staff, adequate equipment and techniques that meet the requirements of international standards. The purpose of this paper is to describe the experience and the role of the SGL in order to improve and enhance the capabilities of SSAC, inspections, verification and control of nuclear material.

### **Which "Key Question" does your Abstract address?**

SGI1.4

### **Topics**

SGI1

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