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Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP): Enhancing Nigerian National Nuclear Security Regime

The application of ionizing radiation sources in various sectors of the Nigerian economy pre-dates the establishment of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) as the competent authority for nuclear safety and radiological protection regulation in Nigeria. The NNRA established by Act 19 of 1995 commenced operation in 2001. In early 2000, Nigeria recorded loss of control incidences involving radioactive material. Nigeria has hosted several IAEA missions such as the International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) Mission, Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, Infrastructure Appraisal (RaSSIA) Mission, etc. The overall objective of these missions was to assess Nigeria nuclear security needs and develop a plan of action for the improvement of nuclear security regime in the country. Based on the Missions recommendations, Nigeria saw the need to systematically document, assess and evaluate national nuclear security architecture. Precisely, one of the recommendations of the INSServ Mission was the development of Nigeria Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). It contains a list of activities necessary for instituting effective nuclear security infrastructure in the country based on the gaps identified by the IAEA Missions to Nigeria. Nigeria in 2010 approved the first Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). The INSSP is reviewed every three years in order to track the implementation progress as well as update the plan. It is unique as it takes into account nuclear security activities between the country and the IAEA and those undertaken through bilateral assistance. Through the INSSP Nigeria's needs in terms of legislative assistance related to nuclear security, participation in international, regional and national training courses as well as education and most importantly building nuclear security capacity among national stakeholders are being addressed amongst others. The presentation, therefore is to highlight the importance of the INSSP in the Nigerian nuclear security architecture and the achievements recorded in the six functional areas of the Nigeria INSSP

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