

Nuclear Security as part of the security of Major Public Events (MPE): The African Union Heads of States Summit, Niamey, 4-8 July 2019



Right in Kinnig

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1. The context and overview of the event

1.1. The context of terrorism in the Region

Nowadays, the West Africa's Sahel Region, not far from Niamey, has become an area of general insecurity due to terrorist attacks.

Many groups have been created and united around a network across both organizational and ethnic affiliations. Most attacks were perpetrated by the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS).

A study conducted by the African Center for Strategic Studies shows a map of violent events in Sahel region involving ISGS from January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

More than 100 violent events in 17 months.

One terrorist attack has been foiled at a location, 45 km far away from the capital, Niamey on 14 May 2019, only two months before the MPE.



1.2. The overview of the event

It's a political event which is a Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of Head of States focusing on political affairs, peace and security and economic integration matters. It has also been an extraordinary Summit on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) to celebrate the first Anniversary of the Signing of this document.

The 54 of 55 African countries have participated to the event. This latter has registered more than 7,000 participants among them:

- 27 Heads of State with 15 First Ladies:
- 26 Regional and International Organizations,
- 479 journalists, etc.

The event has held 24 side events and 110 premises were used, including 40 hotels, 44 villas, 26 residences and apartments.

2. Preliminary arrangements of the event

2.1. The legal and institutional framework

After the decision to host the Summit has been taken by the Government, an Institution called **Agence-UA Niger** has been established (*Decree N°2016-055/PRN of 26 January 2016*) under the Office of the President of Republic. It has mandate to ensure the coordination of all activities related to the holding of the summit. Within this Institution one Department has been intended for the Security Operations purposes. Also, one interministerial security committee called **The Security & Civil Protection Technical Committee** (CTS/PC) was created to assist the agency to fulfil its mission.

For the elaboration and the implementation of the general security measures a National or **Regional Security Council (CRS)**, depending on the size and level of activity, was established by Law No. 2011-47 of 14 December 2011.

For Nuclear security aspect a **National Nuclear Security Committee (CNSN)** exist within the High Authority of Atomic Energy (HANEA) (Decree N° 2013-490/PRN of 4 December 2013). This Committee is in charge of the elaboration and implementation of all activities related to Nuclear Security within the country.

2.2. The interagency coordination, command and control structure



For implementation, they have been incorporated into the overall security plan of the event.

3. Pre-event preventives measures

3.1. The threat/vulnerability assessment

The terrorist threat assessment has been conducted, not on the DBT basis, but as an ongoing activities of the intelligence, counterterrorism and other law enforcement services. Also other means have been used like the use of information and surveillance from Regulatory Body and Atomic Energy Authority such as ITDB report and regional information exchange.

The identified threat is terrorist attack with least probability to nuclear or other radioactive materials implication.

5. Conclusion

3.2. Prioritization of strategic locations and identification of vital area

Due to the result of threat and vulnerability assessment, the priority has been given to the strategic and VIP locations. Then the vital area (in red colour) has been identified. It includes:

- The main venue
- The VIP Hotels : Radisson, NOOM, Bravia, Gaweye, MIM
- Cité UA, a City of 15 villas
- Airport loungesVIP transport connecting ways

3.3. Training and exercising

240 security officers are trained:

- 20+ by support IAEA for the train the trainers and decision-makers.
- 220 by the trainers at national level for use of detection equipment and the test of concept of operations.
- One day of exercise simulated on:
- Radiation mapping
- Security screening at entrance
- 4. The Concept of Operations and use of Radiation Detection Equipment 4.1. The background radiation mapping

The work has been conducted by 48 Officers (4 teams of 12) from 3 different security forces in 5 days with 4 back-packs, 4 identifinders and pagers lent from IAEA. Only the vital area is concerned and it ended 2 days before the event. Two NORM elements were identified which are Ra226 and K40 varied from 0.040 to 0.080 uSv/h.



4.2. The CBRN-E daily pre-event survey

The main venue, the VIP Hotels and the Airport lounges have been meticulously controlled daily before to be occupied for CBRN-E risks with a multi-agency team composed of Scientific Police Directorate, the Body guards of the Presidency Office, the Counterterrorism Unit and the Police VIP Protection Directorate.



4.3. The NS system and measures during the event

Security screening at entrance

The badges controllers & the VIP protection officers in charge of entrance control with the metal detector have accomplished these NS tasks with 20 PRDs.

Pedestrian monitoring

The intelligence officers and the Bodyguards of the President Office has been trained and equipped respectively with 10 and 15 PRDs.

Secondary inspection / expert support

Three teams composed of technicians and Investigators are positioned in different locations close to strategic location with *Identifinder* and *pagers*

Response team

2 teams composed of 14 officers each from: Investigation, firefighter, forensic, environment EOD, emergency and health workers.





The Nuclear Security systems and measures for this MPE has been developed and implemented with the great support of the IAEA through the trainings and loan of radiation detection equipment. It has been a great opportunity for us to test our Nuclear Security multi-agency Plan for the first time.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of all the experts who contributed directly or indirectly to the security of this Summit particularly the nuclear security systems and measures.



Poster ID 268 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS 2020), IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria; 10–14 February 2020