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The obligation of multinational cooperation to promote and advance the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management

Safe, secure, and sustainable management of spent fuel is an international responsibility for countries operating nuclear plants, as well as potential new entrants to nuclear power. For countries either using nuclear power for electricity generation or using radioactive materials for medical, research and industrial purposes, the main concern relies in long lived radioactive waste requiring distinctive measures to ensure the decay of radioactivity to levels not presenting a significant hazard for people and the biosphere.

The Kingdom of Morocco, as a Member State, is acutely aware that cooperation between countries is very crucial in radioactive waste management. The Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety & Security (AMSSNuR) has committed itself to respect the international consensus and made it not only a national responsibility but also a regional and international commitment.

In this regard, AMSSNuR has developed a national policy and strategy on radioactive waste and spent fuel management, intended to address radioactive waste management in a coordinated and cooperative manner with all the concerned parties, in line with the international agreements and instruments signed and ratified by the Kingdom of Morocco.

To ensure the fulfillment of its regional and international commitment, AMSSNuR is actively involved in several international knowledge networks, notably the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA) chaired by the Director General of AMSSNuR. Formally recognized as a regional intergovernmental organization in September 2019, the FNRBA is a key instrument aiming to enhance, strengthen and harmonize, inter alia, radiation and waste safety. To ensure the safe and secure management of radiation, FNRBA has dedicated one of its six thematic working groups to radiation and waste safety.

This paper will address how AMSSNuR fosters the application of good practices in the field of radioactive waste management among the African Member States and discuss the multinational cooperation as a tool to promote and advance the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

Keywords: AMSSNuR, Radioactive Waste Management, Spent Fuel, Multinational Cooperation, Regional Cooperation, International Cooperation.

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