

**International Conference on Occupational Radiation Protection:
Strengthening Radiation Protection of Workers –Twenty Years of Progress
and the Way Forward**

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NATIONAL PLAN FOR NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY EXPOSURE IN NIGERIA

Nuclear technology and application in Nigeria is fast developing; Nigeria and many other developing countries use nuclear application in everyday activities, in health sector, agricultural sector, oil and gas Industries, Construction industries, Manufacturing Industries, Education and training. The Federal Government of Nigeria has proposed to construct its first nuclear power plant by mid-2020. Despite safety, precautions in design and operations accidents involving radiation sources do occur. Many accidents with radiation sources occur due to the lack of Regulatory Authority, or lack of emergency response preparedness is essential in order to mitigate the consequences of an accident, these accidents could lead to significant radiation exposure to the workers, and the public. The National Plan for Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Exposures is a subset of the National Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Response plan which sets out details of Nigeria's planning and preparedness for a national response to a nuclear or radiological emergency likely to cause widespread exposure across Nigeria. The objective of the national plan is to establish a timely, organized and coordinated emergency response by the Nigerian Authorities to promptly and adequately determine and take actions to protect members of the public, emergency workers and environment in line with the highest international standards with respect to safety and environmental protection.

The National Plan was based on the hazard analyses conducted in Nigeria, there exists a potential, albeit small, for emergency exposure situations to occur as the result of accidents or incidents. This plan sets out steps for a national response to an emergency exposure situation, and the subsequent transition to a managed existing exposure situation.

The central goal of this plan is to substantially reduce public exposure to any radioactive contamination which reaches Nigeria as a result of a major nuclear or radiological incident nationally and across boundary. It does this by setting out steps for the rapid implementation of protective measures in the hours and days immediately following the incident. These steps will substantially reduce public exposure to any radioactive contamination which reaches the country. This will in turn minimize the potential long-term health risks to the population.

This paper focuses on Nigeria's efforts in developing this plan, achievements, challenges and way forward to perfect the plan for Occupational radiation protection in emergency exposure situations and subsequent transition.

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