

AAEA Contribution and Programme of Action Towards Safety and Security Strengthening in the Arab Countries

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The Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) is a regional specialized organization working within the auspices of the League of Arab States to coordinate among its member states in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy. It contributes also to the transfer of the peaceful nuclear knowledge and technologies to these countries assist in manpower development and scientific information concerning nuclear sciences and setting up harmonized Arab regulations for radiation protection, nuclear safety and security and safe handling of radioactive materials.

The uses of atomic energy in Arab countries have significantly increased in the last decades in many aspects of life. All Arab countries demonstrated need for capacity building to initiate and sustain a safe and secure utilization of nuclear technologies. AAEA plays a major role, as a TSO, for Arab countries to develop the infrastructures and capabilities needed for nuclear and radiological safety and security towards the establishment of independent regulatory authorities.

A legally well established, effectively independent, technically competent and efficient regulatory body is considered essential for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste and transport safety and nuclear security. The Arab States need to establish and maintain stable and effective regulatory regimes in order to guarantee a high level of safety and security of all nuclear facilities and activities under their national responsibility, and to regulate the introduction and safe and secure conduct of any practice involving radiation sources and nuclear power. In this regard, AAEA has established the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators ANNuR to foster enhancement, strengthening and harmonization of the radiation protection, nuclear safety and security regulatory infrastructure and framework among the members of ANNuR; and to provide mechanisms for the ANNuR to be an effective and efficient internationally recognized forum for the exchange of regulatory experiences and practices among the radiation and nuclear regulatory bodies in Arab countries. ANNuR has 6 thematic working groups. These working groups include: strengthening infrastructure and capacity building for regulatory bodies; Legislation and Regulation frameworks; Emergency preparedness and response; Radioactive waste management and disposal of spent fuel; Safety, Security and Safeguards and Information technology. Each working group has its own action plan including training programmes and technical meetings. All thematic working groups get assistance and support from IAEA, KINS, US-NRC, US-DoE, EU and CNNC. Approximately 15 training activities and technical meetings have been conducted per year since the establishment of ANNuR five years ago.

Country or International Organisation

The Arab Atomic Energy Agency

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