

FORUM OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY BODIES IN AFRICA (FNRBA)

REPORT ON 14TH PLENARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2022 ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 66TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

INTRODUCTION

The Meeting attracted twenty-one (21) Member States of the Forum and over 120 participants including Partners such as IAEA, IRSN and USNRC. The Meeting was opened by the Acting Chairman, Mr. Ya'u Idris of Nigeria. He commended the support received from the IAEA, Partners and members over the years in shaping the activities and focus of the Forum. He called for continued support and collaboration with AFCONE, AFRA and IAEA as well as the other Partners. He reported on the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with KINS of Korea Republic.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Guo Linquan on behalf of Mr. Shahid Mallick welcomed participants to the Vienna International Centre and expressed gratitude to the Forum for coordinating activities of safety and security in Africa with the Agency and other Partners. He thanked his colleagues at the IAEA for their continued support to the activities of the Forum.

Mr. Shaukat Abdulrazak of TC Africa recognized the participation of AFCONE and AFRA in the Plenary and called for improved ways of working together to solve the challenges in nuclear and radiation safety and security in Africa. He recounted good things happening in Africa such as the Rays of Hope which was launched and Plastic NUTEC. He observed that seven (7) out of ten (10) persons in Africa have no access to cancer care, 13 Members States are interested in embarking on nuclear power, 8 operating research reactors with 7 embarking countries, 61% of completed RASIMS2. He called for clear indicators that are measurable. He also called for AFRA, AFCONE and the Forum to work together to change the situation on the ground. He expressed the readiness to support the Forum to move to the next level.

Mr. Enobot Agboraw of AFCONE thanked officers of the Forum for the invitation extended to him to participate in the Meeting. He called on Members to support the implementation of the Pelindaba Treaty and expressed the readiness of AFCONE to work closely with the Forum.

Mr. Ali Ada of AFRA thanked the Forum for the invitation to participate in the Meeting and remarked that there is a high expectation of Africa on the Rays of Hope and other opportunities to collaborate.

MAIN OUTCOMES

The Annual Report was adopted along with the Work Plan for 2022-2023. The Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 was also adopted. IRSN proposal for the training of Radiation Protection Officers was also adopted.

The RASIMS report indicated that there are forty-six (46) Member States of the IAEA in Africa, thirty-six (36) of whom have established regulatory bodies, four (4) with new nuclear laws, one (1) regulatory body without proper law and five (5) draft laws under review. The way forward is to take initiatives and have effective follow up mechanisms, obtain a database of experts with the topics of expertise along with the names.

Partners expressed their continued support for the activities of the Forum.

ELECTIONS

The Elections was conducted during the Plenary Meeting with seventeen (17) Member States voting. Nigeria was unanimously elected as Chairman, Egypt was elected as Deputy Chairman by obtaining eight (8) votes against six (6) for South Africa. Ghana was elected unanimously as Secretary and Zimbabwe was also unanimously elected as Deputy Secretary. The Regional Coordinators are: North Africa – Morocco; Central Africa – DR Congo; South Africa – South Africa; West Africa – Senegal and East Africa – Kenya.

The Steering Committee thus elected comprises: Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Morocco, DR Congo, South Africa, Senegal and Kenya.

RESOLUTIONS

The Plenary resolved to:

- i. implement the Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 and Action Plan for 2022-2023;
- ii. work together with AFRA and AFCONE to further Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security in Africa;
- iii. align our activities to develop and utilize human resources in Africa;
- iv. advocate for effective first-line maintenance for Medical Physicist for sustainability of the Rays of Hope in Africa;
- v. take initiatives and have effective follow up mechanisms; and
- vi. obtain a database of experts with the topics of expertise along with the names.