



Support to Southern African States in Nuclear Safety and Safeguards

Newsletter 3, April 2020

A Round Table on Regional Cooperation in Nuclear Security, Safety and Safeguards in Africa



United Nations, European Union and senior government officials, diplomats, nuclear experts, civil society representatives and academics took part in a discussion dedicated to strengthening the regional cooperation in the pursuit of all matters related to nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the countries of Southern Africa. The round table was convened by ISTC and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) during the 2020 International Conference on Nuclear Security that takes place under the aegis of IAEA in Vienna from 10 through 14 February. Representatives of the national nuclear and radiation protection authorities of Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Kenya provided their national perspectives on the potential of regional cooperation in securing improvement of the current legal regimes, institutional settings and international safeguards obligations of the neighbouring countries of the region of Southern Africa. Prof. Dr. Lazaro Busagala, Director General of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission, highlighted the EU support to Tanzania in securing equipment and enhancing professional skills of the staff of all responsible institutions. Boster Siwila, Executive Director of the Radiation Protection Authority in Zambia, gave an overview of the current update and improvement of the national legislation and regulations in radiation protection and environment. Justice Chipuru, Acting Chief Executive Officer, the Radiation Protection Authority, Zimbabwe, noted that his organization sees its future active role in regional cooperation along the lines of the policy of reengagement pursued by the new government. Chimwemwe Gamulani, Senior Expert, Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, Malawi, recognised the benefits of the collaboration with neighbouring countries through the ISTC-implemented projects in nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Dr. David Otwoma, Board member of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of Kenya, advocated a stronger collaboration amongst African countries that is based on recognition of their specific strengths.

Our Results:

120+ professionals from national institutions of Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, the Kingdom of Eswatini and DR Congo trained in nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the transportation of Uranium Ore Concentrate and other radioactive materials;

43 experts from Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi acquired knowledge and skills to use the web-based Information Tracking System to monitor the transportation of radioactive materials within and across national borders;

23 representatives of public organizations and academia from 13 southern African states learned from the experience of European nuclear institutions during a study visit to Finland;

3 case studies on the national legal and institutional frameworks for the management of RN materials in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia elaborated;

4 countries, Tanzania, South Africa, Malawi and Zambia, host servers, workstations and equipment – the key elements of the web-based Information Tracking System designed as part of the project;

400+ African high school and university students took part in nuclear advocacy initiatives supported by the project and the ISTC in Kenya, Zambia and South Africa.



ISTC, SADC Secretariat convene a Workshop on Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Transportation Safeguards

Government officials and experts in the field of energy from twelve states – members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) kicked off their Energy Subcommittee Meeting in Dar es Salaam in February 2020 with a one-day workshop on the safety and safeguards of nuclear transportation, organized by ISTC and the SADC Secretariat. Officially inaugurated by the Permanent Secretary of the

Ministry of Energy of Tanzania, Ms. Zena A. Said, the capacity development workshop provided an opportunity for over 70 participants from ministries responsible for energy, natural resources and environment to get acquainted with the key principles of nuclear safety, security and safeguards and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for nuclear energy and nuclear applications in Africa. The Director of Infrastructure with the SADC Secretariat Ms. Mapolao Rosemary Mokoena, talked about the wide-ranged agenda that keeps the Energy Subcommittee engaged with regional issues from renewable energy, to energy efficiency to food security. She emphasized that the SADC Secretariat is prepared to apply a multisectoral approach to all matters related to energy and to suggest to member states to consider, in the future, inclusion of the topics of nuclear applications and nuclear safety and safeguards in the SADC policy guiding documents.

One part of the workshop was dedicated to the activities, results and achievements by the project MC 5.01/15 B *Support to Southern African States in Nuclear Safety and Safeguards*, funded by the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. African experts presented the national case studies on the safe production and transportation of Uranium Ore Concentrate in Malawi, Namibia, and Zambia. Prof. Justine Ngaile from the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission highlighted the strong international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety, security and safeguards that helps TAEC in securing skilful staff, advanced equipment and updated regulations that are aligned with the best international nuclear standards. Mr. Walunji Msiska from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority of Malawi presented an overview of the existing legislative, administrative and institutional frameworks that regulates the exploration, production and transportation of yellow cake in his country. Dr. Jeremiah Kebwaro, from Karatina University in Kenya, presented the case study on Namibia, which is prepared based on desk review of national policy documents and reports to UN bodies. Happy Mutanga, Chairman of the Center for Peace and Development in Livingstone, reported on the findings of the national case study on Zambia. The design and deployment in Tanzania, South Africa, Malawi and Zambia of a web-based Information Tracking System to monitor the transportation of radioactive materials is one of the key elements of project MC 5.01/15 B. Mr. Nikolay Palov from the Software company, developer of the system, presented a short video about the ITS and the related trainings provided to over 50 African experts on its use.



Training of Radiation Scientists

The Zambian Radiation Protection Authority (RPA) Board Chairperson, Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Adrian Maleya, said several institutions use ionising radiation in the application of nuclear science and technology for the benefit of Zambians. The practices include but are not limited to those in Health, Manufacturing, Mining, Agriculture, Research and Training, Exploration of radioactive materials and road construction industries. He also highlighted that the use of nuclear science and technology in Zambia is based on imported radioactive materials and devices and, as a landlocked country, Zambia is used as transit point for radioactive/nuclear materials. Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Maleya was speaking at the official opening of the Sub-Regional Training in Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards in the Transport of Uranium Ore Concentrates and other Radioactive Materials-Web Based System in December 2019 at Avani Victoria Falls Resort in Livingstone.

Joint Meetings of the Project Steering Committee and the SADC Nuclear Regulators' Network



Representatives of the project participating countries and of SADC Nuclear Regulators' Network gathered on 27 November 2019 in Gaborone for their fourth joint meeting. Ambassador Jan Sadek, Head of the EU Delegation to Botswana and to SADC, praised the meeting as another illustration of the partnership between the European Union and the Southern African Development Community. Ms. Mapolao Rosemary Mokoena, Director for Infrastructure, SADC Secretariat, acknowledged that the member states are at different levels of developing their national strategies for the peaceful use of nuclear power and applications. She highlighted two specific objectives of project MC 5.01/15 B that are of great importance for the SADC region: harmonization of legal frameworks and capacity building of people and institutions

Hosted by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority of Malawi, the two-day joint meeting of SADC Nuclear Regulators' Network and the Steering Committee of project MC5.01/15B completed on a high note on 11 October 2019, when the 40+ participants adopted common decisions about the activities they will implement during the extension of the project with 12 months until November 2020. The representatives of the Southern African countries hold a closed session to coordinate their approach to regional political institutions. For the first time since the start of the project and its efforts to engage SADC member countries, a representative of the Comoros has joined the deliberations. Comoros is now the 10th country, together with Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Angola, Seychelles, South Africa, Botswana, and DRC that has joined the original four project countries – Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania and Namibia.



On 29 April 2019, the Prime Minister of Tanzania Hon. Kassim Majaliwa inaugurated the Second Joint Meeting of SADC Nuclear Regulators' Network and the fifth Steering Committee of Project MC 5.01/15 B. Mr. Majaliwa greeted over 40 participants from 16 countries and international organizations from Africa and Europe, who gathered in Arusha, headquarters of the Tanzanian Atomic Energy Commission. The Prime Minister extended his “deep appreciation to the EU for the continuous support in ensuring that the nuclear safety, security and safeguards in the region are reinforced”. He recalled: “the transportation of nuclear and other radioactive material is not a one-country issue. It is important for the SADC region to have harmonized guidelines for nuclear material safety and security.”

In Brief

✚ ISTC, together with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, the World Nuclear University, the International Youth Nuclear Congress and other international organizations, delivered a strong message of encouragement to the African Young Generation in Nuclear (AYGN) as this continent-wide network of young professionals convened its Second African Youth Nuclear Summit in Pretoria on 8-11 October 2019. AYGN gathered nearly 200 participants from the fields of nuclear science, research, education and industry and invited managers and CEOs from public and private nuclear bodies and institutions to discuss a wide range of issues related to the peaceful and innovative use of nuclear power, technologies and products.



✚ The African Women in Energy and Power (AWEaP) convened a working meeting to launch the AWEaP national chapter at the side-lines of the 4th Joint Meeting of the SADC Nuclear Regulators Network and the 6th Steering Committee of Project MC5.01/15B. held in Gaborone, Botswana on 27th and 28th November 2019. Participants representing women in Energy and Power from Botswana and Namibia were briefed by Ms. Segakweng Tsiane Tokona on current ISTC activities and possibilities for cooperation under project MC5.01/15B. Honourable Minister Annah Mokgethi, Minister of Nationality, Immigration and Gender Affairs, joined the working session and encourage women to work in collaboration to advance gender mainstreaming in Botswana's power and energy sector.