



NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT 2014

NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

GABON

1. SUPPORT FOR MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENTS (CPPNM):

Gabon is party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of nuclear materials (CPPNM) since February 19, 2008.

2. STRENGTHENED NATIONAL NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL MATERIAL SECURITY SYSTEM:

The radiological and nuclear safety and security regime is organized by the new nuclear law n° 017/2013 August 21, 2013, which deals with the radiological safety and nuclear security in section 2 of chapter III dealing with the legislative framework.

The draft decree laying down the General principles of safety and security was, developed on the basis of document n°13 of the collection nuclear security of the International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA). The draft has been reviewed by the experts of the IAEA Office of Legal Affairs and will be in the coming months subject to adoption by the Council of Ministers.

The Gabonese Agency of Nuclear Safety and Security created by the law n° 017/2013, which will be set up, soon set the rules of physical protection of nuclear material and radioactive sources.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE IAEA'S NUCLEAR SECURITY-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Within the framework of the Africa Cup of Nations co-hosted by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea in February 2012, Gabon has sought the assistance of the IAEA to support national authorities in the planning and implementation of a joint action plan on nuclear security at the event. The assistance of the IAEA focused mainly on the following components: Regional Training Course of trainers on Detection Techniques of radiation to the attention of the first line Agents offered to six (6) students (2 of the regulator, 2 of the National Police, 2 firefighters corps) 20 - 24 June 2011 in Ispra (in Italy); "On-the-Job training" for two (2) experts of the National Centre for the Prevention and Protection against Radiation Ionisants (CNPPRI) within the Office of Nuclear Security of the IAEA in Vienna, in August 2011; technical support mission conducted by two experts from the IAEA in Libreville, from 12 to 15 September 2011; and provision of equipment for detection of radiation (in the form of loan).

In addition, in order to strengthen awareness of Gabonese authorities dealing with security matters on issues of nuclear security and the assistance provided by the IAEA in this field but also in order to consolidate and finalize the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSPs), an awareness workshop will be held in Libreville from 17 to 19 March 2014. However, Gabon has not requested the IAEA assistance for the provision of the International Advisory Service on the nuclear safety (INSServ) and the International Advisory Service on Physical Protection (IPPAS).

4. SUPPORT FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY-RELATED INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES:

The support of Gabon to nuclear activities at the international level is not yet effective.



5. CONTRIBUTION TO MINIMIZATION OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR MATERIALS:

Currently, no project aiming at minimization of the sensitive nuclear materials is implemented in Gabon.

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AND SUPPORT:

Gabon adhered to the principle of the creation of a network of regional initiatives on nuclear, radiological, bacteriological and chemical (CBRN) risk reduction. A preliminary meeting was held in Libreville on January 13, 2014, within the framework of the project 33 "Strengthening the national legal framework and specialized and technical training to increase preparedness and response capacity to an CBRN incident". A national team (NT) including the focal point, the Ministries and the authorities dealing with CBRN risk was created. However, no project to establish a centre of excellence is planned.

7. ENHANCED EFFORTS TO COMBATING ILLICIT IN NUCLEAR TRAFFICKING IN NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS

To enable strict control of imports and exports of nuclear and radiological materials, a memorandum of understanding was signed on December 28, 2010 between the national radiation safety Regulatory Authority and the Customs authorities (Direction Générale des Douanes and Droits Indirects), in accordance with the requirements of the Code of conduct on the safety and security of radioactive sources developed by the IAEA and for which the Gabonese State is politically committed in April 2010. A national training course intended for Customs officers, was organized from 13 to June 17, 2011, in Port-Gentil, with the assistance of experts from the IAEA.

8. STRENGTHENED COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NUCLEAR INDUSTRY:

Good cooperation has been established between the Gabonese Government (through the Ministry of Energy and its supporting body, the CNPPRI) and the representatives of the Uranium Mines Company of Franceville (COMUF) for the monitoring and rehabilitation of former mining and industrial sites of Mounana (off since 1999) through the creation of a Local Commission of Information and Surveillance (CLIS), which held its session in 2007, 2009 and 2010.

Gabon did learn the hard way from the consequence of the operation of radioactive ores without any real regulatory control. Consequently, a Strategic Committee assisted by a Steering Committee was established (decree n°20/0984/PM of february 2013) for the monitoring of project activities of Maboumine, which intend to operate a polymetallic deposit (containing both niobium, tantalum, uranium, phosphates, rare earths, titanium and related substances).