



## MEDIA

**Immediate Release**

REF: 9/1/28-18

Gino Moonsamy  
t. (012) 674 7111 m.082 535 5365  
[e.gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za](mailto:e.gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za)  
[www.nnr.co.za](http://www.nnr.co.za)

*Dear Editor*

**SOUTH AFRICA PRESENTED ITS 4<sup>TH</sup> REPORT TO THE JOINT CONVENTION ON THE SAFETY OF SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT AND ON THE SAFETY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (JOINT CONVENTION) AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> REVIEW MEETING TAKING PLACE AT THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

**- 28 May 2018, Centurion, Pretoria, South Africa**

The Joint Convention 6th Review Meeting started on Monday, 21 May and continues till 01 June 2018. NNR CEO, and President of the 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting, Dr Bismark Tyobeka in his opening address highlighted the need to ensure for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste management and emphasised the ongoing need to earn societal trust that expanding applications of nuclear technologies, are both safe and sustainable.

The South African delegation to the Joint Convention 6<sup>th</sup> review meeting is being led by his Excellency Ambassador T Seokolo and comprises officials from the South African Permanent Mission in Vienna, NNR, Department of Energy, Eskom, Nuclear Energy Corporation South Africa and the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute of South Africa. The Joint Convention is a legally binding international agreement that governs all aspects of spent fuel and radioactive waste management. It represents a commitment by Contracting Parties (member countries) to achieve and maintain a consistently high level of safety in the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. The Convention applies to spent fuel resulting from the operation of civilian nuclear reactors and to radioactive waste resulting from civilian applications. It also applies to spent fuel and radioactive waste from military or defence programmes if such materials are transferred permanently to and managed within exclusively civilian programmes, or when declared as spent fuel or radioactive waste for the purpose of the Convention by the Contracting Party concerned. In addition, it covers planned and controlled releases into the environment of liquid or gaseous radioactive materials from regulated nuclear facilities.

The NNR on behalf of the Government of South Africa, compiles the *South African National Report for the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*. On Friday, 25 May 2018, NNR Programme Manager (Nuclear Technology and Waste Projects), Mr Thiagan Pather presented the 4<sup>th</sup> South African National Report, confirming compliance with the articles of the Joint Convention. He further added that the current South African National Report updates the previous three reports, which documented the safety of used fuel and safety of radioactive waste management in the Republic of South Africa under the terms of the Joint Convention.

The contracting parties recognised the achievements of South Africa since the last review meeting in May 2015 and commended South Africa on –

- ✓ comprehensive efforts made towards developing essential skills demanded by the national programme.
- ✓ establishment of customised competence management evaluation system and integrated talent management model for the regulatory body.
- ✓ continued assistance provided by South Africa to other IAEA States regarding recovery and management of radioactive sources.
- ✓ co-operative governance amongst intergovernmental regulatory functions in an integrative manner through formal co-operative governance agreements.

The Contracting Parties encouraged South Africa to continue current efforts related to -

- ✓ integrating the regulatory responsibilities of NNR and the Directorate Radiation Control (RADCON).
- ✓ development of a roadmap and clear milestones for the implementation of the Deep Geological Disposal Facility by 2065.
- ✓ enhancing the competence and capacity within the recently established National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute, in line with its wide range of tasks and challenges for operating the existing Vaalputs National Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities and developing new facilities.
- ✓ promulgation of legislation on the National Radioactive Waste Management Fund.

*The South African National Report on Compliance to the Joint Convention* can be accessed from the NNR website at the following URL [www.nnr.co.za/nnr-library/south-africa-nuclear-safety-conventions-reports/](http://www.nnr.co.za/nnr-library/south-africa-nuclear-safety-conventions-reports/)

Should you require more information, please contact me.

# - # - #

Issued by:

Gino **MOONSAMY**

Manager: Communications & Stakeholder Relations

National Nuclear Regulator

Eco Glades 2 Block G, 420 Witch Hazel Avenue, Highveld, Centurion. South Africa | PO Box 7106 Centurion, 0046

t: +27 (0) 12 674 7111 | f:+27 (0) 86 588 4450 | e:gmoonsamy@nnr.co.za | w:www.nnr.co.za

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Nuclear-Regulator/682634571826520>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-nuclear-regulator>



*South African delegation to the Joint Convention 6<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting*

### **About the National Nuclear Regulator**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.