Third International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security

Organized by the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security

(AMSSNuR)

PROSPECTUS

In Cooperation with the IAEA

Introduction

It is widely recognized that the risk that nuclear or other radioactive material could be used for malicious acts remains real and is regarded as a serious threat to international peace and security. Because of the possible catastrophic consequences, securing vulnerable material and associated facilities and activities from falling into the wrong hands continues to be a shared priority of all States and relevant International Organizations. It is also well recognized that the responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each State, but international cooperation is vital in facilitating the peaceful and secure use of nuclear and radiological applications, and in enhancing global efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), the European Commission (EC), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), and other international partners have been playing an important role in building a sustainable, effective global response to this global threat.

In this respect and in order to further strengthen this international effort, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) convened, in 2012, the first-ever organized International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security to discuss a wide range of activities relevant to enhancing regulatory approaches and practices for security at civilian facilities. Four years later, the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) from Spain, convened, in 2016, the second International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security, which, in coordination with the U.S NRC, further promoted international cooperation to advance nuclear security. Both of these conferences played an important role in establishing and deepening relationships between nuclear security regulatory bodies. Indeed, robust cooperation among regulatory bodies is particularly important to share best practices, lessons learned, and implementation strategies.

To continue this global effort, AMSSNuR will convene, for the first time in Africa, the 3rd conference in Marrakech, Morocco from 1 to 4 October 2019. It is expected that this effort will further strengthen international cooperation and enhance capacity building for nuclear security around the world in general and, in Africa, in particular.

Organization, cooperation and sponsorship

The conference will be organized by the Moroccan Government through the Agence Marocaine de Sûreté et de Sécurité Nucléaires et Radiologiques (AMSSNuR), in cooperation with the IAEA.

Purpose

The Third International Regulators Conference on Nuclear Security is designed to address a wide range of thematic areas and topics on nuclear security. Its purpose is to share experiences and best practices among regulators, Technical Support Organizations (TSOs) and relevant Regional and Interregional actors with a view to further enhancing national, regional and international nuclear security activities.

Target audience

The Conference is directed at a broad range of experts and decision makers in the area of nuclear security regulatory activities and their implementation, bringing together the world's senior regulators, security professionals, decision-makers, high level officers from TSOs, Regional and International Organizations, as well as stakeholders responsible for the area of nuclear security.

Working language

The working language of the conference is English. Interpretation in French and Arabic would be provided for the opening and closing sessions.

Date

October 1-4, 2019

Venue

Marrakech, Morocco

Savoy Grand Hotel

Programme Structure

The conference consists of an opening plenary session, ten thematic sessions with panel discussions, a special session on the current and future trends and challenges, and a closing session. In parallel, there will be side-events covering specific topics on nuclear security.

The thematic sessions will address the following technical areas:

1. **Sustainable, strong and independent nuclear security regulatory framework**

As part of the implementation of a legislative and regulatory framework, an independent regulatory body should have, inter-alia, enough authority, competence, and human and financial resources to discharge its responsibilities. Likewise, other stakeholders, including TSOs and law enforcement agencies, should have adequate competencies and resources. All these players should coordinate their activities closely to implement an effective national nuclear security framework. This session will discuss elements of a strong national nuclear security framework, the criteria and approaches to ensure continuous improvements and sustainability. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Legislative and regulatory framework for nuclear security;
- Strong, sustainable and independent regulatory body;
- The role of National Nuclear Security Support Centers (NSSC) and Centers of Excellence (CoE) in sustaining a national nuclear security framework;
- Stakeholders involvement in supporting the nuclear security regulatory framework;
- Nuclear security for newcomers; and
- Strengthening the global nuclear security framework.

2. **Implementation of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and its Amendment**

As it is the only legally binding international instrument in the area of physical protection, the CPPNM and its Amendment constitute key elements of the international legal framework for nuclear security. In this session we will explore national experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of CPPNM and its Amendment. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment; lessons learned, case studies and challenges;
- Universalization of the CPPNM and its Amendment;
- Regional and global networks contributions in implementing the CPPNM and its Amendment;
- Fulfillment of international transport obligations under the CPPNM and its Amendment;
- Implementation of the CPPNM and its Amendment through the IAEA Nuclear Security Series; and
- Strengthening the CPPNM and its Amendment.

3. **Security of radioactive material**

Radioactive material, including radioactive sources, provides benefits to humanity in medicine, industry, energy, agriculture, research, etc. However, losing control over these materials could lead to unacceptable consequences. Aware that the risks arising from such incidents must be minimized and protected against, this session will discuss national best practices and lessons learned in the application of appropriate regulatory oversight and control. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary guidance;
- How to regulate radioactive material from cradle-to-grave;
- Challenges facing oversight of radioactive material in and out of regulatory control;
- Regulations for and control of security of radioactive material (national experiences); and
- Prevention of illicit trafficking of radioactive material (national experiences).

4. **Evaluation of threats**

A comprehensive regulatory framework for nuclear security takes into account national and international threats, and constantly evolving adversary tactics and capabilities. The adversaries may include insiders with access authority and knowledge, as well as external threats. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Personnel trustworthiness and reliability;
- Mitigating the insider threat;
- Regulatory challenges to develop and implement human reliability programmes;
- Developing and implementing a threat statement or Design Basis Threat (DBT); and

- Capacity-building for threat assessment and DBT.

5. Evaluating nuclear security effectiveness

The process of planning and conducting an evaluation of the effectiveness of physical protection systems is one way to assess and make improvements in nuclear security framework. The session shows approaches used to evaluate the effectiveness of a nuclear security system. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Regulatory approaches on physical protection design and evaluation tools;
- Best practices to assess the effectiveness of physical protection, including methodologies and techniques;
- Use of the graded approach in the evaluation of the security system;
- Developing and implementing performance evaluations;
- Verifying regulatory effectiveness through inspections; and
- Evaluating transport security effectiveness.

6. Demonstrable Competency

The international community recognizes that managers and operators with security responsibilities need to be demonstrably competent. However, one of the major challenges is the lack of internationally recognized training and competency for personnel with security accountabilities. The session explores methods used to define and meet the needed competencies and capabilities in the field. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Preparing the next generation of nuclear security professionals;
- Training and maintaining competency for nuclear security professionals;
- Succession planning and knowledge management;
- The role of educational institutions in nuclear security; and
- Regulatory approaches to training and sustaining capabilities.

7. Response to nuclear security events

Nuclear security programmes are developed to address events arising from daily security practices, to peaceful demonstrations, and to external assaults. This session discusses how national programmes have prepared for, or responded to, the continuum

of security events faced by nuclear facilities or events associated with radioactive materials. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Contingency planning to respond to nuclear security events;
- Nuclear security exercises to evaluate effectiveness;
- A national case study in responding to a nuclear security event;
- Nuclear forensics;
- International and regional cooperation to respond to a security event; and
- Interfaces between contingency planning and emergency planning.

8. **Information security**

The protection of sensitive information from unauthorized disclosure is essential. For that purpose, a national programme should be established and maintained to protect classified and sensitive information from being compromised. In this session, we will discuss information protection strategies and the challenges of implementing a program to protect against the cyber threat. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Protection of sensitive and/or classified information;
- Establishment and assessment of information security systems;
- Implementing a computer security programme;
- Transparency vs. confidentiality of information; and
- Challenges and solutions for sharing sensitive and/or classified information with licensees using, storing and transporting high risk radioactive sources and nuclear material.

9. **Addressing interfaces**

Nuclear security interfaces with both safety and safeguards, which requires an ongoing evaluation to avoid conflicts and strengthen synergies. Therefore, taking into account that the interfaces between security/safety and security/safeguards are dealt with in a seamless and effective way, this session will discuss good practices for synergy among them. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- Security/safety interface in practice: lessons learned;
- Similarities and differences of safety and security;
- Integration of safety culture and security culture;
- Nuclear Material Accounting and Control (NMAC) for security and safeguards; and
- Enhancing the regulatory oversight programme based on safety and security synergy concepts.

10. **Public Information and Communication**

Communicating proactively and responsibly with the public and interested parties, including government institutions, on nuclear security related issues is one of the responsibilities of the regulatory body. Therefore, the establishment of a proper communication strategy and mechanisms among all concerned parties and the general public will support the regulatory body in performing its functions. In this session we will look into the best practices and experiences of how to communicate with national stakeholders and external partners and how to balance confidentiality and transparency. This session could include, but would not be limited to, the following topics:

- National strategies and approaches in public information and communication;
- Communicating nuclear security events to the public and to the international community, as appropriate;
- Communication between regulatory body and stakeholders;
- Confidence building on the actions of the regulatory body;
- Nuclear security and contemporary communication challenges; and
- Information exchange on nuclear security incidents: why and how?

11. **Special Session: Current and Future Trends and Challenges**

As the threat landscape is continuously evolving, this session will be designed to explore current and future trends and challenges to point out nuclear security challenges. This special session could include, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Current and emerging technologies for nuclear security;
- Alternative technologies;
- SMRs and portable reactors;
- Computer and cyber-security; and
- Emerging threats to nuclear security: drones and 3D technologies.

Side-events

Two side events will run in parallel to thematic areas 4 and 7 on day 2 and 3 of the conference. They will address the following specific topics:

- Strengthening Nuclear Security through Regional Networking.
- Morocco's Experience in Responding to Radiological Emergency Triggered by a Security Event

Synopses, Posters, Presentations and Proceedings

All papers submitted — other than invited speakers — must present original work and should not have been published elsewhere. Persons who wish to have their paper considered at the conference — either to be presented orally or in the form of a poster — must submit a synopsis of between 400 and 800 words on one of the thematic areas or topics listed above. The synopsis should give enough information on the contents of the proposed paper to enable its evaluation. Unnecessary introductory and general matters should be avoided. The accepted synopses will be available to all participants at the conference.

1. Submission of Synopses

Persons who wish to present a paper, interactive content presentation or poster at the conference must submit it in electronic format (no paper copies) through the IAEA's web browser-based file submission system (INDICO), which will be accessible through the website of the conference, or the following link: https://conferences.iaea.org/indico/event/193/. Synopses must be submitted through this system no later than Monday, July 1st, 2019. No other form of submission will be accepted.

Acceptance of Synopses for Oral Presentation, Interactive Content Presentation or Poster Presentation

Given the number of synopses anticipated and the need to provide ample time for discussion, the number of papers that can be accepted for oral presentation is limited. Authors who prefer to present their papers as posters or interactive content presentations are requested to indicate this preference during registration.

Authors will be notified by Monday, July 22, 2019 as to whether their papers have been accepted.

2. Submission of Full Papers and Presentations

Only Authors of papers selected either for oral presentation or inclusion in the proceedings are requested to submit a full paper. Full papers must be submitted through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system, through the following link: https://conferences.iaea.org/indico/event/193/. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of the full papers will be made available on IAEA-INDICO. The

deadline for electronic submission of the full papers as both PDF and Word files is Friday, August 23, 2019.

Authors of selected papers for oral presentations are requested to submit their presentation through the IAEA-INDICO file submission system. Specifications for the layout and electronic format of presentations will be made available on IAEA-INDICO. The deadline for electronic submission of presentations as both PDF and PowerPoint files is Monday, September 9, 2019.

IMPORTANT: The system for electronic submission of papers, IAEA-INDICO, is the sole mechanism for submission of regular papers. Authors are encouraged to submit papers and presentations as early as possible.

3. Conference Proceedings

The proceedings containing summaries of the plenary and topical sessions as well as full papers selected by the Programme Committee will be published as soon as possible after the conference.

Exhibitions

Space will be available for displays/exhibits during the conference. Interested parties should contact the organizers by email at security.conference@amssnur.org.ma.

Date and Venue

Date: October 1-4, 2019

Venue: Savoy Le Grand Hotel

Address: Avenue Prince Moulay Rachid, Marrakech 40000

Registration and Submission

Those wishing to participate in the conference must register through the following link: Click Here. The deadline for registrations is September 16, 2019.

Participants wishing to submit their abstracts should do so through the link provided on the website under the section “Call for papers”. The deadline to submit abstracts is July 1st, 2019.

Should your participation be confirmed, you will receive a confirmation of participation shortly after the deadline for registration.

Accommodation

There are several accommodation options in the vicinity of the conference venue. But for more comfort, high quality standards and practicality, we strongly recommend you in the first place the hotel where the conference will take place, SAVOY LE GRAND HOTEL http://www.savoylegrandhotelmarrakech.com/

Visiting Marrakech

Visit the official website of the Moroccan National Tourist Office for more information, maps and essential guides on the city, the most popular sites and attractions of the city: https://www.visitmorocco.com/in/travel/marrakech.

Fees and Finance

There is no registration fee for this conference, the organizers will bear the cost of the venue, facilities and meals included in the program.

Some participants will benefit from funding from our partners, the choice of beneficiaries will be based on the quality of paper submitted. For more details on how to send synopses, please see Synopses, Posters, Presentations and Proceedings.

Passport and visa

For detailed information on how to apply for a visa, we recommend you visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation https://www.consulat.ma/en, or contact the embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in your country.

In case of need for visas, the host, the Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security (AMSSNuR), will be able to provide you with an official letter of invitation. If this is your case, please send your request to security.conference@amssnur.org.ma along with the completed registration form.

Public transportation from the airport to the city center

The airport disposes of several public taxi ranks, the organizers will provide more details by the end of September.