

# Position Paper

**Committee** - United Nations General Assembly (Disarmament and International Security)

**Agenda** - Addressing Nuclear waste/ fallout

**Country** - The Islamic Republic of Pakistan



The safe disposal of nuclear waste is paramount for the safety of future generations. The fallout of a nuclear waste disposal accident is potentially fatal, and it is the responsibility of member countries to avoid any such future occurrence. With the rapidly growing number of nuclear reactors in the world, we need to address the concern now, more than ever.

Pakistan currently has 6 operable nuclear reactors, all of which have been supplied by China. Pakistan is not a part of the Nuclear Non - Proliferation Treaty, and maintains this stance, on account of fears over India's usage of nuclear weapons. This prevents Pakistan from engaging in nuclear power related trades with other nations, but ensures the safety of the nation's citizens. China, however, is positive about nuclear co- operation with Pakistan, which is, in part, fueled by a 2018 International Atomic Energy Agency programme, that supports civil nuclear power.

Nuclear power accounts for 7.5% of Pakistan's electricity production. Plants have been set up in two locations in the country, in Chashma and Karachi. Chashma houses CHASNUPP 1, 2, 3 and 4, while Karachi houses Karachi 2 and 3. The government has set a target of producing 300 tonnes of uranium per year from 2015, but this has not yet been achieved.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is responsible for the management of radioactive waste. New policies promote a dedicated Central Radioactive Waste Management Fund, and centres are proposed for both Karachi and Chashma. The currently employed solution is waste- storage- pools. Longer term dry storage and reprocessing are in the works.

The Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH) at Rawalpindi near Islamabad has conducted research on nuclear fuel and the production of radioisotopes. There is a research reactor at PINSTECH, that was supplied by the USA in 1991 as part of the Atoms for Peace program. The institute actively tries to devise new methods of nuclear waste disposal.

In regards to the regulation of nuclear exploits, the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) handles the licensing and supervision of all civil nuclear materials, including the Karachi and Chashma reactors, for which it works closely with China's Nuclear Safety Administration.

Addressing the Hague in 2014, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan had been running a safe and secure nuclear program for over four decades with the expertise, manpower and infrastructure to produce civil nuclear energy.