

Zimbabwe's Success story on the CPPNM, A/CPPNM & ICSANT



***Vongai Mavurayi-Mutanga
Amos Muzongomerwa
Radiation Protection Authority Of Zimbabwe***

“...Protecting people and the environment from harmful effects of radiation...”



Legislative Provisions

- The Radiation Protection Act [Chapter 15:15] (2004), is the sole act on the regulation of peaceful uses of nuclear and radiation applications in Zimbabwe.
- The Act is reserved for Acts assigned to the President; thus the Authority reports to the President.
- Section 5 of the Act provides for the Radiation Protection Board, responsible for formulating the general policy of the Authority and controlling its operations.
- Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe (RPAZ) is a statutory body with a mandate to protect people and the environment against the harmful effects of radiation, established in terms of the Radiation Protection Act [Chapter 15:15].

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Zimbabwe acceded to the CPNNM in 2021 and to the A/PPNM & ICSANT in 2023.

- The decision is as a result of Government's desire to avert the potential dangers posed by the unlawful import/export, transfer and use of nuclear material.
- The peaceful use of nuclear science and technology in Zimbabwe is widespread in many sectors of the economy for socioeconomic development, as Zimbabwe is also a transit corridor from the Southern African Region, the issue of transit/transport is also of interest.
- Nuclear security events and offences are a matter of grave concern and Zimbabwe has to play its part in ensuring appropriate measures for prevention, detection and response to nuclear security.

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Status of other Conventions

Zimbabwe recently (2021+2023) became part to the following conventions:

- i. Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- ii. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material [CPPNM]
- iii. Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- iv. Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and
- v. Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.
- vi. Convention Nuclear Safety
- vii. Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage

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Status of other Conventions ctd

- viii. Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
- ix. Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention.
- x. International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- xi. Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities for the International Atomic Energy Agency
- xii. Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Infrastructure for Nuclear Security in Zimbabwe

- In line with its committed to ensuring global nuclear security, Zimbabwe has an Integrated Nuclear Security Plan with the IAEA since 2013, that spells our nuclear security priority areas and strategies for prevention, detection and response to nuclear security events.
- A National Nuclear Security Committee (NNSC) chaired by the Office of the President & Cabinet and comprised of representatives from various government departments and agencies with a responsibility for nuclear security is in place to coordinate nuclear security activities. Constitution of the committee is also provided for in the draft amendment bill.
- It is through this Committee that the recommendation to accede to these conventions was made as part of the implementation of the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP).

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Road Map to Accession in Zimbabwe

Once approved for accession, the conventions undergo the constitutional process of approval.

- This entails approvals by the Public Agreements Advisory Committee, Cabinet Committee on Legislation, Cabinet, and Parliament then signature by His Excellency the President.
- Once the President has appended his signature the instruments are then deposited accordingly.

Promotion of the Convention

- As with any process that requires bureaucracy, red tape occurs and that causes delays which sometimes are frustrating to the technocrats.
 - However, in our case this was addressed through targeted awareness of senior government officials and parliamentarians, including the National Nuclear Security Committee.

Opportunities

- The IAEA and its partners also offered a myriad of training to conscientise decision-makers, this included sanitization workshops with both policy makers and the legislature to garner support for the CPPNM and its Amendment.
- Other lobby groups e.g. the Parliamentary Global Action also made efforts in promoting adherence to the CPNNM as well as ICSANT.

Implementation in Zimbabwe

- Zimbabwe has a reporting mechanism for the UN Resolution 1540, coordinated through the Ministry of Defence and input on the nuclear and radiological matters has been done through the Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe.
- Zimbabwe has domesticated the obligations arising from the Conventions through the Radiation Protection Amendment Bill. [The amendment bill is currently undergoing the legislative process].
- Considerable support was provided by IAEA and its Partners in providing International Basic Safety Standards and Security Guidance.

Provisions in the Amendment Bill

- Clause 45

This clause provides as the primary responsibility of authorised utilizing nuclear or other radioactive material, to ensure physical protection of such material or related facilities in terms of applicable regulations and license conditions.

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Provisions in the Amendment Bill

- 44 Security and Physical Protection Requirements

(1) The Authority shall establish requirements for the security of nuclear and other radioactive material, and their associated facilities and activities, including measures for the detection, prevention and response to unauthorized or malicious acts involving such material, facilities or activities, taking into account the national nuclear threat assessment.

(2) Such requirements shall include:— a categorization of nuclear and other radioactive material based on an assessment of the damage that could result from theft or diversion of a certain type and quantity of material from authorized uses, or from sabotage of a facility in which nuclear and other radioactive material is produced, processed, used, handled, stored or disposed of; protection measures necessary for different categories of material; accounting and control measures for nuclear and other radioactive material; measures to ensure protecting the confidentiality of sensitive information and sensitive information assets.

- (3) The Authority shall collaborate with other competent authorities to ensure that nuclear security systems and measures are in place at all appropriate organizational levels, including to detect and assess nuclear security events.

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RPAAZ
Radiation Protection
Authority of Zimbabwe

Provisions in the Amendment Bill

- 51 Extradition (for States Requiring an Extradition Treaty)

The offences set forth in this Part shall be considered as extraditable offences pursuant to any extradition treaty between Zimbabwe and any other State or between Zimbabwe and any State Party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment.

Implementation in Zimbabwe

- Import, export and transit requirements exist.
- Authorization and inspection requirements has been strengthened to incorporate physical protection measures.
- Physical Protection Assessments (with the assistance of the IAEA) at facilities and at high activity facilities. Upgrades have been recommended and this is in course being funded by the IAEA.
- International Physical Protection Advisory (IPPAS) mission this November 2024
- Awareness programmes for the National Nuclear Security Committee and Legislature on the provisions and implementation of the conventions

Thank you for your attention 😊

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