



A New Regulatory Authority for the Control of Nuclear security and radiation protection in Burkina Faso

(D.M.A. BELEMSAGA, Z.A. OUEDRAOGO, S. SAM-SANGRE)

Presented by:

Dr Desire M. Alexis BELEMSAGA, DVM PhD (Atomic physics & Nuclear medicine)

Head of the Division of Regulation and Control Email: <u>belemsagadma@homail.com</u>



Outline

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Legal framework
- The regulatory authority preliminary activities
- Conclusion



Introduction 1/3

- The peaceful use of nuclear energy is recognized. But there is an international consensus that nuclear terrorism remains a major threat and it is of countries responsibility to set up effective policy and strategies to prevent such event at all levels.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is responsible for the international peaceful use of the nuclear energy.
- Burkina Faso is involved in the Agency nuclear security activities through many multilateral and bilateral agreements.



Introduction 2/3

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s statutes have been ratified by Burkina Faso in 1998
- Burkina Faso is a State with Small Quantity Protocol and its Additional Protocol interred into force on the 17 of April 2003
- But, as it can be observed in most African countries, ionizing radiation sources are used not only for medical purposes, but also for research and industrial activities.



Introduction 3/3

- Unfortunately, measures concerning radiation protection, the safety use and the security of sources are not clearly defined
- Also the application of international standards and strict respect for the fundamental principles of radiation protection are not yet routine
- Therefore, it is essential that every national regulatory authority, in any country, has the capacity to ensure the safety use and the security of radioactive sources



Methods 1/2

- Participatory approach at all stages has been used and activities reported cover the period from 2007 to march 2009.
- Preliminary investigations have been conducted with a number of research centers, hospitals and industries, using a various number of the IAEA software such as RAIS, Radioactive Waste Management Registry (RWMR) and the Protocol Reporter software



Methods 2/2

- Functional and/or disused sources have been inventoried, and nuclear materials accounted.
- Declarations had been done to the Agency using SQP initial report, Additional Protocol (AP) declarations though the State System of Accounting for and Control of nuclear materials (SSAC).
- In order to inform and sensitize target population, meetings and training events had been organized



The Legal Framework

International Symposium on Nuclear Security - Vienna: 30 March to 03 April 2009

The Burkina Faso Radiation Protection and Nuclear safety Law

- The basic law relating to radiation protection and nuclear safety has been voted by the National Assembly on 26 April 2005.
- This law is the legal basis that allowed the creation of the National Regulatory Authority for Radiation protection and Nuclear safety.
- The global aim is to regulate activities involving nuclear materials or radioactive sources and to control the traffic of such materials within the country.

The Burkina Faso Radiation Protection and Nuclear safety Law

- But, even if the regulatory authority is involved in the Agency nuclear security activities it should be noted that nuclear security had not been taken into account by the law
- so that it is urgent and essential to review it for this purpose.



Decrees and related texts

- In February 2008, the Burkina Faso government adopted a decree (2008-56/PRES/PM/MECV/MEF) which binds the national regulatory authority to the Ministry of Environment. The attributions of the regulatory structure and the rules related to the organization and functioning are described in.
- In addition, it should be noted that many other legal texts, such as decrees related to the general principles of the protection or to the radioactive waste management, are being implementing.



- ARSN is the national regulatory body competent for the control of the better use of ionizing radiation sources in the country.
- ARSN is located in Ouagadougou and is provided with 3 divisions: Regulation and control, Authorizations and Inspections
- Even if ARSN is under the Ministry of Environment, plans are fare advanced to give it a fully independent status



- For the ARSN to be effective in its responsibilities, all activities involving radiation exposure are subjected to regulatory control by a system of notification, authorization by registration or licensing and inspection
- ARSN works closely with the IAEA national liaison officer through the national technical secretary of atomic energy (STEA) that has in charge the promotion of nuclear energy in Burkina Faso.



- The principal political mandate of the Burkina Faso National Regulatory Authority is:
 - To advise the government on matters relating to Radiation protection and disposal of radioactive waste; and
 - To provide an effective national framework for the safety and security of radioactive sources and radiological installations, including physical protection.



- ARSN coordinates activities of structures concerned with ionizing radiation and radioactive materials by (i):
 - initiating and drawing up the national radiation protection strategies;
 - licensing, supervising and monitoring operations of irradiation devices and radioactive materials to ensure public safety;



- ARSN coordinates activities of structures concerned with ionizing radiation and radioactive materials by (ii):
 - advocating that devices, plants, installations are designed, constructed, calibrated and operated in accordance with international prescribed standards;
 - keeping register of proprietors of irradiation devices, radioactive materials and other sources of ionizing radiation.



Preliminary activities

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Since its creation, in July 2007, ARSN is conducting field activities relating to practise authorizations, ionizing radiation sources inventory, inspection of radiological and research facilities, public information and sensitization



- An inventory analysis of radioactive sources in the country is still conducting by the national regulatory authority.
- Some ionizing radiation sources and radioactive wastes had been found.
- So, the radiological hazard is perceptible within the country and this must be controlled and secured by using adequate materials for the better management, through a nuclear security soft programme based on the public careful information and sensitization



Looking ahead

- ARSN is implementing a strong programme to managing nuclear security activities by making available adequate regulatory texts.
- During the coming years, the ARSN plans:
 - to continue the inventory analysis of radioactive sources and radioactive waste, the accountancy and the control of nuclear materials
 - the Promulgation of laws and decrees relating to radioprotection and nuclear safety and security



Looking ahead

- the control of import / export, holding and use of radioactive sources; and
- the sensitization of stakeholders and users of radioactive sources
- The Agency is requested to develop initiatives to strengthen and enhance the Burkina Faso Nuclear Security systems for physical protection of nuclear and other radioactive materials during use, storage and transport.



Looking ahead

- In particular
 - special on job training with AFRA on ionizing radiation sources inspection, control of and accountancy of nuclear materials and the IAEA illicit trafficking Database (ITDB);
 - facilities and technical equipments for the control of nuclear materials trafficking and radioactive waste management.



Conclusion 1/3

- Contributions of the Burkina Faso
 Government to the nuclear security is
 increasing (human resources, logistic and
 cash contributions)
- Activities are conducted to establish background data for further studies in order to suggest guidelines for drawing up adequate regulations for the better control of nuclear security in the country.



Conclusion 2/3

 For the time being, ARSN is focusing its activities in target population information and sensitization but also in writing different complete regulatory texts in order to make functional programs related to the accountancy and the control of nuclear materials, and other radioactive sources.



Conclusion 3/3

- Indeed, the regulatory structure which has in charge these activities has been created in July 2007 only; so that activities related to the radiation protection, nuclear safety and security are being implementing.
- Subsequently, more data is still needed for the better control of nuclear security in all sectors that are using ionizing radiation sources



Autorité Nationale de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (ARSN)

Chank You for Your Kind Attention

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