THIRD ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY (AFCON)
11-12 NOVEMBER 2013
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

CONCLUSIONS
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1. The Third Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) was held in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa, from 11 to 12 November 2013, pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 3, of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).

2. The Ordinary Session was attended by the following AFCONE Commissioners: Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa (Chairperson), Dr. Mourad Telmini of Tunisia (Vice-Chairperson), Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer of Algeria, Dr. Badiori Ouattara of Burkina Faso, Dr. Augustin Simo of Cameroon, Professor Shaukat Abdurazak of Kenya, Dr. Bulgasem Hammouda Ali El-Fawaris of Libya, Mr. Tezana Coulibaly of Mali, Ambassador Anund P. Neewoor of Mauritius and Mr. Christian Sina Diatta of Senegal. Absent from the Ordinary Session were Mr. Atnatiwos Zeleke Meshesha of Ethiopia and Lieutenant-Colonel Manzi Pidalatan of Togo.

3. The objective of the Ordinary Session was to discuss matters relating to the operationalization of the AFCONE Secretariat and the implementation of the Treaty of Pelindaba within the context of the outcome of the Second Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Treaty of Pelindaba, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 13 November 2012.

4. The Ordinary Session considered the status and progress made regarding the finalization of the Host Country Agreement between the African Union (AU) and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on the establishment of the headquarters of AFCONE. The Ordinary Session requested the parties to address and resolve all outstanding issues at the earliest date possible to ensure its timely conclusion.

5. The Ordinary Session considered the status of AFCONE budget for the period 2013 – 2015 and expressed concern about unpaid assessments, noting that only 0.912% of the budget has been secured. In this regard, the Ordinary Session commended the Republic of Mauritius for the timely payment of its assessed contribution and encouraged other States Parties to make their assessed contributions without further delay to ensure the effective and timely operationalization of AFCONE.

6. The Ordinary Session further took note of the outcome of the selection process undertaken by the AU Commission for the appointment of the AFCONE Executive Secretary in line with Annex III, paragraph 2, to the Treaty of Pelindaba as well as the subsequent consultations between the Chairperson of the AU Commission and the Chairperson of AFCONE. It was noted that administrative and financial measures need to be put in place before an Executive Secretary of AFCONE can be officially appointed, and in this regard, the Ordinary Session requested the AU Commission to remain seized of the matter to ensure the timely appointment once conditions permit.
7. The Ordinary Session, pursuant to Rule 18 of its Rules of Procedure, endorsed the establishment and membership of two AFCONE working groups for the implementation of the relevant aspects of the guidelines for the programme of work of AFCONE. Group One (1) was assigned to address the topics: (a) Monitoring States Parties’ compliance with their non-proliferation obligations; and (b) Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security. Group 1 is composed of Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer, Mr. Augustin Simo, Mr. Atnatiwos Zeleke Meshesha, Dr. Bulgasem Hammouda Ali El-Fawaris and Lt.Col. Manzi Pidalatan. The Ordinary Session endorsed the proposal to designate Mr. Messaoud Baaliouamer as group leader.

8. Group Two (2) was assigned to address topics: (c) Nuclear Sciences and Applications; and (d) Partnerships and Technical Cooperation. Group 2 is composed of Dr. Badiori Outtara, Professor Shaukat Abdulrazak, Mr. Tezana Coulibaly, Ambassador Anund P. Neewoor and Mr. Christian Sina Diatta. The Ordinary Session further endorsed the proposal to designate Professor Shaukat Abdulrazak as group leader.

9. The Ordinary Session extensively discussed the proposed indicative action plans and terms of reference of the Working Groups. It was stressed that the work of AFCONE should be undertaken in close coordination and collaboration with the relevant international and regional bodies, particularly the Africa Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) and the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA), in order to optimize resources and address gaps. It was agreed that further consultations and exchanges will take place in order to finalize the action plans.

10. The Ordinary Session further considered the draft national reporting template and the draft guide for States Parties for reporting under Article 13 of the Treaty. It was agreed that further efforts and consultations will be undertaken in order to finalize the reporting template in due course to ensure the timely reporting by States Parties.

11. The Ordinary Session endorsed the proposal for the convening of the 3rd CSP in May 2014, which marks the completion of the AFCONE Commissioners’ three-year mandate and with a view of ensuring the continuity of the programme of work of AFCONE. In this regard, the Ordinary Session agreed that AFCONE should convene twice before the 3rd CSP to review and assess the implementation of the Working Group’s action plans and finalize the reports to the 3rd CSP.

12. The Ordinary Session expressed its deep thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for hosting the event and for the excellent facilities and support provided.