



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

ON

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ON

**THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON
ASSISTANCE**

**IN CASE OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENT OR RADIOLOGICAL
EMERGENCY (1986)**

NOVEMBER 2014

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON
THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF NUCLEAR
ACCIDENT OR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY (1986)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Convention on Assistance in case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (1986) was laid before Parliament on Tuesday 17th June 2014. Rt. Hon. Speaker referred the Convention to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report pursuant to Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution and Order 185 the Standing Orders of Parliament.

2.0 DELIBERATIONS

The Committee met on 20th July, 2014 in Koforidua to consider the Convention. The Deputy Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovations, Hon. Dr. Bernice Heloo and a technical team from Ghana Atomic Energy Commission were in attendance at the invitation of the Committee to assist in deliberations on the Convention. The Committee is grateful to them for their attendance and input.

3.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee had recourse to the following documents during the deliberations:

- I. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana;
- II. The Standing Orders of Parliament;
- III. The Convention on the Assistance in case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (1986)

4.0 BACKGROUND

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The Convention on Assistance in case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency is one of the immediate post Chernobyl Conventions. It was opened for signature in Vienna in September 1986 and entered into force in February 1987.

The Convention provides a framework to expedite request for the provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or a radiological emergency. The aim of the Convention is to ensure the safety of the public and of the environment and encourage States to seek expert assistance to address radiological emergencies be it Trans boundary or not. It also promotes, facilitates and supports cooperation between state parties in time of need.

The Convention seeks to set out an international framework for cooperation among States parties and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which serves as the crucial point for such cooperation by routing information, support efforts and providing its available services.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Committee observed that the significance of the Convention is to prevent nuclear and radiological accidents, minimize the consequences of any such accident and to facilitate the prompt provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency.

The Committee further observed that the Convention would strengthen the international response to a nuclear accident or radiological emergency, including a terrorist or other malicious attack and provide a reciprocated assistance mechanism with the aim of minimising the consequences of such accidents or emergencies to protect life, property and the environment against the effect of any radioactive releases.

The Committee took note of the fact that, an African Regional Cooperation Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) Project exists between Ghana Atomic Energy Commission and the IAEA to establish a legal framework for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The essence of the project is to enable Ghana establish a proper legislation in the areas of emergency preparedness, the safe transport of radioactive material and to assist Ghana in the safe utilisation of nuclear technology and radiation sources for peaceful application among others.

The Committee also noted that the Convention seeks to ensure that radioactive nuclear material is used in a safe and secure manner for the protection of human life and the environment and it is imperative that Ghana ratifies it to be taken seriously in matters of nuclear technology.


6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The Committee has thoroughly examined the Convention and is of the view that accession to the Convention by Ghana will be beneficial to the nation's interests noting that it does not place any financial obligations. The Committee accordingly recommends to the House to ratify the Convention on Assistance in case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (1986).

Respectfully submitted.



HON. SIMON EDEM ASIMAH
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE



JOANA A.S. ADJEI (MRS.)
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 2014

