

STATEMENT

BY

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**LEADER OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE
52ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY 29TH SEPTEMBER-
4TH OCTOBER 2008, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Mr. President,
Director General of the IAEA,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Kenya delegation, to congratulate you on your election as President of the 52nd General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Allow me also to congratulate my colleagues in the Bureau for their election.

I wish to assure you of the full support of my delegation. In our deliberations, I am confident that this Conference will be successful, under your distinguished leadership.

The Kenyan delegation wishes to take this opportunity to welcome the Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Lesotho and the Independent State of Papua New Guinea into the membership of the Agency

Mr. President,

This session marks the penultimate general conference under the stewardship of our Director General, Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei. I would like to pay special tribute and congratulate him and his staff members for the distinguished service to the Agency and their unflagging efforts towards making the world a safer place, and for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

The Agency's activities are making the difference in many areas of socio-economic development including: - agricultural production, energy generation, human health, water supplies, industrial development and nuclear security. The report by the Director General on the Agency activities for 2007 re-affirms the great value and importance of the tasks carried out by the Agency. In similar vein, The Safeguards and Verification aspects of the work for the Agency have continued to demonstrate the importance of the Agency's vigilance and its solid contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Kenya strongly supports the right of all states to have full use of nuclear technology and scientific applications as provided in

the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and affirmed by the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

The Agency's Technical Cooperation in Kenya has contributed significantly in support of the Government's efforts towards developing the national nuclear science and technology infrastructure and addresses the priorities identified in the Country's Programme Framework (CPF). Kenya is in the process of developing a new CPF for the period 2011-2016, to address the priorities as set out in our country policy documents including "Vision 2030". Kenya is participating with the Agency, in 11 national projects and 53 regional/interregional projects, which cover human resources development, Human health, Agriculture, Livestock production, Industrial Applications, energy planning, Radiation Protection and radioactive waste management. .

Mr. President,

Kenyan scientists are among the pioneers of plant-breeding for the development of crops essential to food security. Towards this end, the new variety of early maturing, high-yielding,

drought-resistant wheat, “the Golden Wheat” developed using nuclear techniques is one such tangible example of success of the TC- supported programme in Kenya, which we will roll out soon, not only to benefit Kenya but also other countries. This in our view is a concrete manifestation of the Agency work in addressing the global food crisis.

Mr. President,

Kenya recognizes the global efforts aimed at protecting against nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation. As a result of the International Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to the country, the Agency is in the process of upgrading the physical security for category 1 sources at research institutions in Kenya.

Kenya has specifically created security agencies with highly trained personnel to combat crime related to nuclear terrorism. Kenya has hosted regional training courses on combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials information systems.

Mr. President,

With respect to enhancing regulatory measures and control, Kenya's Competent Authority, through increased Manpower and Radiation Detection Equipment, has opened additional Regional Offices. It has also adopted the Agency's Regulatory Authority Information System software for the control of radiation sources in the Country.

In addition, an Amendment Bill proposing the Autonomy of the Radiation Protection Board in line with the International Basic Safety Standards going through our legislative processes.

Mr. President

My delegation commends the Agency for its continued measures to strengthen nuclear safety and security in the transportation of radioactive sources and waste management. As already mentioned, we have improved our detection capability for illicitly trafficked radioactive and nuclear materials through training of border personnel and provision of radiation detectors

Kenya also recognizes the global efforts for the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management and the requirement for defenses against potential hazards to society and the environment. To this end, Kenya's Ascension to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is at an advanced stage.

We now have in Kenya designs for the Central Radioactive Waste Processing Facility (CRWPF) taking into account the Agency's Radioactive Waste Safety Standards and Principles for Radioactive Waste Management. The Government has allocated \$580,000 for the first phase of the project. The CRWPF will also be used for the processing and safe storage of orphan sources and apprehended illicitly trafficked nuclear and radioactive materials. Kenya invites regional and international development partners for support for the full realization of this project.

Mr. President

Kenya attaches great importance to the application of nuclear techniques in addressing some of the national challenges. Energy is not only crucial to achieving the Millennium

Development Goals but also in spurring national development and economic growth. The current national power supply is 1000 MW compared to the peak demand of 1400 MW. Nuclear power can make a major contribution to meeting energy needs and sustaining Kenya's development in the 21st century. The Government is inviting assistance in development of nuclear power plants to add 1,000 MW immediately to the current energy mix and significantly more capacity for the future. This will greatly reduce over-reliance on fossil fuels and biomass and hence contribute to the protection of our environment.

Mr. President

Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis pose a threat to the lives and livelihoods of our communities and is a constraint to the livestock production. The provision of a gamma irradiator by the Agency has enabled Kenya to improve mass-rearing of sterile males for Sterile Insect Technique. This will be one of the techniques to be applied by the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign in the final phases of area-wide eradication of tsetse flies in Kenya and the region.

Mr. President,

In the area of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine, the projects on the expansion of radiotherapy services and the improvement of nuclear medicine service have been placed on high priority. Kenya commends the Agency for establishing the program of action on cancer therapy (PACT). Under PACT, radiotherapy services at Kenyatta Hospital and Nyanza General Hospital are being modernized and expanded. Such services will also be spread to cover other hospitals across the country.

Mr. President,

Skills development in the field of nuclear science and technology is crucial. In view of this, our local Universities have been in the forefront in collaborating with the Agency in developing relevant curricula in nuclear technology. Training courses, fellowships, scientific visits, expert missions and equipment provided by the Agency to our institutions are highly appreciated.

Mr. President,

For 2009-2011 Cycle, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support to the Technical Cooperation within the framework of the African Regional Research Agreement on Nuclear Science and Technology Related to Development, Research and Training (AFRA) and appreciates its efforts in addressing the problems of the AFRA Member States.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, Kenya wishes to pledge to contribute its full share of the assessed contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund for the Year 2009. We remain fully committed in our support of the work of the Agency.

I thank you Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates for your attention.