



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENERGY OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE LONKHOKHELA

**TO THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS AND THE TECHNICAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMME AT THE IAEA'S HEADQUARTERS IN
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

26TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER 2024

The Director General of the IAEA;

The Deputy Director General;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors;

Director Division for Africa Mr Shaukat;

Programme Management Officer for Eswatini

Mr Ben Asoro;

Distinguished National Liaison Officers,

Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I convey my greetings from the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Director General, let me seize this opportunity to applaud the agency under your leadership, for the expeditious way in which you have continued to support countries in responding to the various challenges faced by our countries including cancer treatment, water scarcity, insect pest control, livestock production and health, among other challenges facing the African continent.

The Kingdom of Eswatini also acknowledges and appreciates the Fellowship awards extended to citizens of Eswatini for human resource development in various fields to address the above challenges. We also appreciate training of trainers (TOT) opportunities that the IAEA continues to avail to member states. Recently, we had teachers nominated to train on a Regional Training Course on The Introduction of Nuclear Sciences in

Secondary Schools to give awareness of nuclear technology applications at an early stage.

We are also grateful for the grant of scholarships for training on nuclear law where Eswatini has been a beneficiary to send our nationals at the crucial time when we are just finalizing the Nuclear Bill for Eswatini: THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY REGULATORY BILL 2024. It gives me great pleasure to report that the Bill has been passed by Cabinet, tabled in parliament, and is now awaiting the last stage of being debated and then passed into an act of parliament. The enactment into an Act of Parliament of this bill will enable the Kingdom to establish a regulatory body and expedite the construction of the radiotherapy facility which is part of the projects already approved under the technical cooperation programme (TCP).

The project on preparing the first radiotherapy facility for the Kingdom of Eswatini is aimed to address the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cancer. Let me report that designs are being finalized in consultation with the IAEA experts who had a successful mission in early August this year when they came for an Impact Review on the status of cancer in Eswatini and secondly to review our Bankable Document for the development of the Radiotherapy Facility. This team consisted of a geotechnical expert who came to assess of the proposed site. The site has been approved and the initial designs show that we will require funds to the tune of **20 million United States Dollars** to set the whole facility.

Director General,

Eswatini joined the IAEA Technical Cooperation in 2013 has been expanding her utilisation of nuclear science and technology through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. This is reflected by our second Country's Programme Framework which we recently signed together with the agency after approval by Cabinet for the period 2024-2029. It highlights 5 priority areas being:

- Nuclear and radiation safety;
- Food and agriculture;
- Human health;
- Water resources management and
- Energy planning.

The country has recently concluded a project on Isotope Hydrology to help with water resources management and energy planning which has helped the Kingdom to come up with a short-term electricity generation expansion plan to improve our energy security. The country has also recently requested to join Atoms for Food and Rays of Hope Initiatives and set aside some funds for Government cost sharing. We are looking forward to the meeting between the IAEA and the Ministry of Agriculture in a few days' time on the way forward.

Eswatini attaches great importance to the IAEA's core mandate in the fields of nonproliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety, nuclear security, and technical cooperation and will continue to be fully engaged with the Agency in this regard.

Furthermore, it is worthy to mentioning that Eswatini has signed most protocols of the IAEA, on outstanding ones are we awaiting to be walked through by the experts.

I thank you for your attention!