

Statement of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Program 26–28 November 2024, Vienna, Austria

Delivered by:

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26 November 2024
Vienna, Austria

Your Excellency Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA,

Esteemed Deputy Director Generals of the IAEA,

Honourable Ministers of Member States,

Distinguished National Liaison Officers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a privilege to address this distinguished assembly of leaders and experts at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications, in conjunction with the Technical Cooperation Program. This gathering underscores our shared commitment to leveraging nuclear science and technology to advance the well-being of our societies.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ethiopia recognizes the transformative potential of nuclear science and technology in driving socioeconomic development. We are resolutely committed to utilizing this potential to tackle critical challenges across sectors such as energy, agriculture, and healthcare. To this end, our national strategy focuses on exploring avenues such as nuclear power, applications in nuclear medicine, and the establishment of a Center for Nuclear Science and Technology.

In the agricultural sector, Ethiopia's initiatives, including the Green Legacy Initiative, illustrate our dedication to environmental sustainability and food security. Enhanced support from the IAEA will undoubtedly amplify the impact of these efforts, aligning them with Ethiopia's broader development aspirations.

The interrelated and complex nature of global challenges necessitates holistic and convergent solutions. Nuclear science and technology offer a robust suite of tools to address pressing issues such as food security, water management, and climate change. By prioritizing safe and secure use, we can unlock the immense benefits these technologies hold for humanity.

Excellencies,

Ethiopia, a founding member of the IAEA, is eager to deepen its collaboration with the IAEA, both as a beneficiary of the Agency's support and as an active contributor to the Agency's noble mission. We extend our sincere gratitude to the IAEA for its invaluable assistance through initiatives such as Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program. These initiatives are instrumental to empowering our nation to address critical challenges.

However, Ethiopia continues to face a significant cancer burden, exacerbated by our large population and extensive geographical diversity. To mitigate this burden effectively, additional support and innovative approaches from the IAEA remain crucial.

We are also particularly inspired by the "Atoms for Food" initiative and are committed to active participation. We believe that nuclear techniques can play a crucial role in enhancing food security and addressing malnutrition, especially in regions with significant agricultural challenges.

In conclusion, allow me to express Ethiopia's deep appreciation to the IAEA for its unwavering support in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology. We are steadfast in our commitment to working collaboratively with the Agency toward a shared vision of a secure, prosperous, and sustainable future for all.

Finally, we urge the principal donors and member states to sustain and enhance the financial and technical resources of the IAEA, enabling it to continue its critical mission effectively.

Thank you.