

National Statement of the Republic of Liberia

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology, and Applications

November 26, 2024

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Her Excellency Madame Sara Beysolow Nyanti, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency President Joseph Nyema Boakai, President of the Republic of Liberia, I bring you warm greetings from the Government and people of Liberia. It is an honor to address this distinguished assembly and reaffirm Liberia's unwavering commitment to the peaceful and productive use of nuclear science and technology for the advancement of humanity.

We extend our gratitude to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its steadfast support to Liberia and for fostering global collaboration in this vital field. Liberia's recent submission of six legal instruments under the supervision of the IAEA, including the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, underscores our dedication to upholding nuclear safety and security standards.

As a developing nation, Liberia recognizes the transformative potential of nuclear science and technology in addressing critical challenges in health, agriculture, and climate change. These priorities are fully aligned with our national development blueprint—the ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development, which emphasizes Agriculture, Health, Education, and Infrastructure, and mirrors the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Health:

Liberia faces significant healthcare challenges, including the rising burden of cancer. Radiotherapy and nuclear medicine are essential for early diagnosis and treatment. We seek IAEA's continued technical cooperation to build diagnostic and treatment centers, train medical professionals, and improve access to radiation therapy, enabling us to build a sustainable health system.

2. Agriculture:

As the backbone of Liberia's economy, agriculture employs over 70% of rural populations. Yet, challenges such as declining productivity and climate change threaten food security. Nuclear techniques offer solutions for improving soil fertility, pest control, and crop resilience. We welcome partnerships to enhance agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable practices that benefit our farmers and communities.

3. Climate Change:

Liberia is highly vulnerable to climate impacts, including extreme weather and coastal erosion. Nuclear technology, such as isotope hydrology, provides critical tools for water resource management and environmental monitoring. We remain committed to leveraging these technologies to build resilience, track greenhouse gas emissions, and adapt to climate change.

4. Technical Cooperation:

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) has been instrumental in supporting Liberia's development. We seek to deepen this collaboration through capacity-building, infrastructure development, and technology transfer, enabling us to maximize the benefits of nuclear science for sustainable development.

Conclusion:

Liberia is steadfast in its commitment to the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. With the continued support of the IAEA and our international partners, we can tackle critical challenges in health, agriculture, and climate change, ensuring a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for our people.

Thank you.