

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Director General of IAEA,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

May I first of all express our delegation's congratulations to you on your election as President of the 60th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. I am confident that your experience and able leadership will guide us as we deliberate the many peace and security issues that the international community faces today.

My Delegation pledges its full cooperation and support to you in discharging your responsibilities. Let me also seize this opportunity to congratulate Saint Lucia, Saint Vencent Grenadie and the Islamic Republic of Gambia for joining the IAEA and wish them a successful membership.

I am indeed happy to address this August body during the 60th Anniversary year of the establishment of IAEA. This Anniversary is opportune moment to share with each other our perspectives on the challenges and progress that the Organization has experienced over the past six decades and plan for its future. By doing so, I believe, we can craft a shared vision that would form the basis for global

cooperative action to preserve and further promote international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia firmly believes that technology and science is one of the key enablers in the efforts to realize its vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025 with the strong industrial base. In order to attain that status, it is imperative for Ethiopia to further enhance and develop its science, technology and innovation capacity in a very rigorous manner. Indeed Ethiopia, over the years, has been carrying out wide-ranging activities that would upgrade its level of science, technology and innovation and ensure effective technological applications in further promoting the country's economic transformation. Obviously, as witnessed in our own and other countries' experiences, the role of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology and its associated tools have proved to be crucial in addressing challenges in core socio-economic sectors such as agriculture and food security, human and animal health, water resource management, environment, radiation protection and industry.

Mr. President,

In the case of Ethiopia, one of the flagship projects that the Government, in collaboration with the IAEA, has been implementing

for the past many years is STEP. It has been encouraging that using the sterile insect technique, as part of an integrated pest program, 25,000 Sq. Km. area have been made free from tsetse fly diseases thereby allowing the local communities to safely use their farmland, improved crop and livestock. Based on this successful experience, we are now expanding the programme to cover four more regional states - with 240,000 Sq. km area by deploying drones for extensive release of sterilized male colony. In fact, this experience has the potential to serve as a good practice that can be emulated by other countries in developing nations, particularly in Africa.

Mr. President,

In addressing the growing cancer occurrence, Ethiopia has been exerting tireless efforts to expand the nuclear medicine and radio therapy centres in the country. Over the last many years, and until recently, there has been only one centre for population of around 100 million and that this problem has been one of major hindrances to accessibility and availability of diagnostic and therapeutic services to our citizens. In realizing the importance of expanding the services to cancer patients, the government is currently in the process of completing five more centres in different regional states of the country. The Government has also concluded agreement for building the seventh centre at St. Paulos' Hospital a new nuclear medicine and

radio pharmacy facilities with government contribution of 10 million US Dollars.

The support of IAEA, in particular long term fellowship, training and expert mission play pivotal role in building the human resource capacity required for the newly built facilities. In addition, the Government has also started formal post-graduate training in radiation oncology for medical doctors, nurses and will also start similar training for medical radio therapy technologists. Likewise, in the area of nuclear medicine a formal postgraduate in clinical nuclear medicine and nuclear medicine imaging technology will be started soon as the curricula have already got the final approval by the University Senate. This will be followed by training in the field of radio pharmacy and in vitro nuclear medicine to address the current and future manpower need of the country.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia fully supports the IAEA motto 'Atom for Peace and Development' and strongly believes that the role of IAEA in implementing the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals is critical. As a country that hosted successfully the Third Conference for Financing for Development last year in July in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is committed to working closely with IAEA to realize the implementation of this ambitious global development agenda.

Ethiopia is of the opinion that development cannot be viewed in isolation from ensuring appropriate safety protection of the population. In this respect, Ethiopia has been undertaking safety and protection measures in line with international Basic Safety Standard. The efforts to strengthen the implementation of the objectives of the Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority by all relevant and competent government organs, through amending the proclamation that established the Authority, is a point in case.

The use of nuclear technique and tools to assess the linkage between aquifer and groundwater resources, and NDT facilities to support the growing construction and manufacturing industry and for training and research purposes by the National Institute of Metal Industry demonstrate that Ethiopia is benefiting from peaceful application of nuclear technology in transforming its economy. Moreover, 2 out of the 36 public universities are devoted fully to promote science and technology and to ensure they are properly managed and achieve the goal of making them a Centres of Excellence have been put under the Ministry of Science and Technology as of 2014.

Ethiopia has been achieving concrete results in most socio-economic fronts in which the contribution of science and technology is significant. The Government is convinced that the application of

science and technology including the peaceful use of nuclear technology in realizing Ethiopia's inclusive economic growth and sustainable development goals is a determining element and an absolute necessity.

Mr. President,

In closing, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to express Ethiopia's gratitude to IAEA and its Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano and development partners for their continued cooperation and support in all technical and development fields.

Thank You