



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE 62ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

17TH TO 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2018.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

**DELIVERED BY ENG. COLLINS JUMA, NATIONAL LIASON OFFICER & CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER; KENYA NUCLEAR ELECTRICITY BOARD**

ON

17TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

Madame President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Madame President,

I am pleased and honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kenyan delegation during this 62nd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the 62nd General Conference and the other bureau members. I reassure you and the entire bureau of Kenya delegation's full support.

Madame President,

Kenya has cooperated with the Agency and continues to do so through the Technical Cooperation Projects that seek to promote peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We are pleased to share that, in close collaboration with the Agency, the Government developed the Kenya's Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2017-2022 in 8 priority areas namely;

1. Food and agriculture
2. Human health
3. Water resources management
4. Agro-environmental management
5. Industrial applications
6. Sustainable energy development
7. Human capacity building in nuclear science and technology
8. Strengthening national radiation safety and nuclear security

Madame President,

The Government identified four priority areas to spear-head socio-economic development expounded in Kenya's Vision 2030 development plan. These areas, also known as the big four agenda focus on health, agriculture, manufacturing and housing. The Government has singled out energy as a key enabler for the country's economic growth. Kenya has therefore committed to include nuclear Energy in its energy mix to meet her future electricity demand.

The Kenya Government will continue to work closely with the Agency and other partners in order to achieve the goals of the big four. In this regard, we commend the support of the Agency in the four areas which are covered in the current Country Programme Framework. Under the armpit of the technical assistance programme (TCP), Kenya has received help in capacity building as well as equipment to strengthen national institutions' capacities aimed at laying the necessary national infrastructure for nuclear power for peaceful use. Kenyans continue to participate and benefit from training programmes organized by the Agency, technical advice, expert review missions on site selection, reactor technology assessment, non-destructive techniques for industrial use (NDTs), development of prerequisite policy frameworks and strategies in radioactive waste management and nuclear fuel cycle. This support has and will remain crucial in the development of Kenya's nuclear power programme and is invaluable in supplementing Government efforts towards the attainment of SDGs.

Madame President,

Kenya acknowledges that safety and security of nuclear materials and facilities is a national responsibility of each Member State. In this context, the Government will ensure that Kenya's actions match her commitment, including establishing the legal and regulatory infrastructure necessary to support the development of the nuclear power programme. In this connection, the Nuclear Regulatory Bill has been approved by Cabinet and is in Parliament for the necessary legislative processes before it is signed into law. Further, Kenya recognizes the importance of assenting to the relevant international Treaties and Conventions on nuclear safety. In this regard,

the Government has initiated the legal process of assenting to the four Conventions on nuclear safety and security.

Madame President,

Security and safety of nuclear material and facilities includes the public participation and confidence building. In this context, the Government has from the onset involved the relevant stakeholders in order to create awareness and bolster confidence in the nuclear power programme for peaceful use. To this end, the Government has conducted meetings at national and local levels for the public and leaders with the support of the Agency as well as supported respective representatives to participate in various international awareness fora. The local media has also been sensitized with a view to assisting disseminate accurate information on nuclear power for peaceful use with the assistance of the IAEA. We, therefore, request the Agency to continue with the support.

Madame President,

Kenya's population is about 48 million with an annual mortality of 22,100 due to cancer with 1% (48,000) annual incidence of cancer. 80% (3800) of those diagnosed with cancer need radiotherapy services of which a mere 2,000 have access to treatment at the country's biggest referral institution, Kenyatta National Hospital, currently the only public facility handling cancer while another 2,000-access private facility treatment. These alarming deaths reported due to cancer have necessitated implementation of a comprehensive national cancer control programme which calls for strengthening of capacity for both national and county Government Referral Hospitals as well as other health institutions so as to adequately diagnose, treat and manage cancer and other related diseases.

In connection to this, the Government is committed to providing a comprehensive healthcare scheme to all Kenyans. The Government plans, with the support of the Agency through Technical Cooperation Project, to expand radiotherapy services to other parts of the country by establishing radiotherapy and cancer treatment centers in the Coast, Western and Central regions to cater for the needs of the public and reduce the burden on the few existing cancer facilities.

We, therefore, count on the continued support from the Agency and other partners to help equip the health institutions and build human resource capacity which will eventually improve the quality of life especially in diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Madame President,

Agriculture employs 70 percent of the total workforce and accounts for more than 25 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP). However, consistent drought spells, animal and plant pests and related diseases remain a serious and are one of the main causes of food insecurity. To tackle these challenges, the Government intends to expand the use of irrigation, improve soil productivity and efficient water use considering climate change impact on water scarcity, soil degradation and potential salinization. We therefore recognize and appreciate the training on nuclear techniques in Agriculture through the Technical Cooperation Programme which has assisted in the development of irrigation schemes, developing and testing of drought and insect resistant crop varieties through use of biotechnology. In Animal production, efforts have focused on breeding new varieties of fodder to address feed quality and sufficiency challenges in the beef and milk production chains. We are glad to report notable drop in animal and plant diseases and improvement in vegetable, fruits and animal products.

Madame President,

Kenya, in collaboration with the Agency and other partners, will continue to upgrade the physical security for facilities holding radioactive materials. The Government has reviewed and updated the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) for Kenya and also developed a 3-year national action plan for nuclear security for implementation.

With regard to nuclear safety, Kenya received two IAEA Nuclear Safeguards Inspectors in the country on September 11 – 13, 2018 to carry out inspection of facilities holding nuclear materials, Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology - University of Nairobi and to advise the Radiation Protection Board on necessary improvements for the National Safeguards Regimes. The Government continues to implement the recommendations of the inspectors to improve the national nuclear safeguards regime. We have also initiated the development of an Integrated Management System (IMS) for the efficient and effective optimization of our resources which will result in improved regulatory performance.

Kenya appreciates and believes in sharing experiences and best practices among IAEA Member States and therefore encourages the Agency to facilitate this initiative.

Madame President,

The Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology at the University of Nairobi, is the focal point for teaching and training on peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in the country. Kenya continues to benefit from IAEA through funding for training of personnel and procurement of scientific equipment through Technical Cooperation Projects and related African Regional Framework Assistance (AFRA) projects. We request for continued support to the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology and also to consider making it a regional designated centre for training in Nuclear Science and Technology. Further, we request and welcome Member States with relevant expertise and institutions to collaborate with the Institute in order to bring it up to the required level to serve our needs.

In the manufacturing sector, and in particular the use of non-destructive technique (NDT), Kenya would like to strengthen the existing infrastructure with the aim of providing services to the growing industrial sector and subsequent increase in imports and exports at national and regional level. We believe that assistance from the Agency will go a long way to supplement Government efforts of ensuring required quality, safety and standards. We therefore request the Agency to support our efforts towards this end.

Further, I would like to thank the Agency for collaborating with the Kenya Bureau of Standards in establishing a Radiotracer laboratory to develop the national capability in this field through the two projects in the areas of Secondary Standard's Dosimetry and Establishment of Systems for Education, Training, Qualification and Certification for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) in collaboration with the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology under the University of Nairobi. We request the Agency to continue the support towards this end.

Madame President,

Supply of clean and quality water to all Kenyans, including in the poor rural and urban areas, is one of Government's priorities. In this regard, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, received assistance from the Agency through two Technical Cooperation Projects on water aimed at training and conducting water resources assessments with a view of ensuring proper management and utilization of water resources for development. We are glad to share that the Kenya Government, in conjunction with IAEA, established and continue to equip the National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory in Kenya. We request the Agency to continue supporting these efforts.

On challenges resulting from climate change, Kenya would like to thank the Agency for the support in capacity building particularly in marine environment. Kenyans continue to benefite from the training programmes in marine pollution, sea water desalination and use of nuclear technology in mitigating climate change in line with the Paris Agreement.

Madame President,

On the upcoming Ministerial Conference: Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges, set for the 28th to 30th November 2018 in Vienna, we support and commend the on-going preparatory work. Kenya looks forward to the Conference and hopes that the outcome will be one that will bring us together in the search for practical solutions to tackle the current challenges within the context of Atoms for peace and development.

Madame President,

To conclusion Madame President, Kenya reiterates her commitment to IAEA. We thank the Agency, the Director General and his entire team for the invaluable contribution towards expanding and promoting nuclear science and Technology for development.

Finally, Madame President, I would like to wish the 62nd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference success in all its deliberations.

Thank You