



NIGERIA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. IBRAHIM USMAN JIBRIL
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

TO THE

**62ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA,
17TH TO 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2018**

SEPTEMBER 2018

Madam President,

1. Permit me, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 62nd Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference and to assure you of Nigeria's full support and commitment to the success of this Conference. We are sure that, under your able leadership, this Conference will achieve its set objectives.

2. The Nigerian delegation extends its appreciation to the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his opening statement and also to the Staff of the Secretariat for their efforts and commitments towards repositioning the Agency for better and effective service delivery to Member States.

3. My delegation would like to also express its appreciation to the IAEA for the immense support and cooperation Nigeria has continued to receive through the various elements of the Technical Cooperation arrangements that the IAEA has with Nigeria. Indeed, there have been tremendous achievements in the areas of research reactor safety, radiation protection, radiological emergency, environmental monitoring and applications of nuclear science and technology in the areas of Health, Agriculture, Water Resources, Human capacity development etcetera. In this regard, Nigeria will continue to look forward to a more mutually beneficial partnership with the Agency in the years ahead.

Madam President,

4. As part of Nigeria's commitment and contribution to global peace and security, I would like to report the tremendous achievements made in the on-going national efforts towards the conversion of the nuclear fuel of the Nigeria's research reactor from high-enriched uranium to low-enriched uranium. My country appreciates the support and cooperation of the IAEA, United States of America, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom, Norway and other partners in this regard.

5. Last year, on the margins of the UN General Assembly, Nigeria joined other states to sign the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons otherwise called the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty. Nigeria will continue to support this first legally binding international agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons towards an early entry into force through ratification.

6. Nigeria's Country Programme Framework for 2018 – 2023 has been approved and will be signed on the margins of this Conference. The key priorities of the CPF with the IAEA are: Food and Agriculture, Health and Nutrition, Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security, Water Resources & Environment and Energy & Industry.

7. Nigeria notes the recent efforts towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and calls for continued diplomatic engagements to achieve a lasting peace.

Madam President,

8. As a member of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy, Nigeria will continue to support global efforts for the successful implementation of Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Africa and other regions of the globe through sustaining the achievements made under the framework of the *Pelindaba Treaty*.

9. My delegation appreciates the important role the IAEA has continued to play towards Nigeria's development of a National Nuclear Security Detection Architecture roadmap based on overall assessment of national security needs and capabilities as well as economic and technical resources. In addition, Nigeria welcomes the convening of the 2018 International Conference on the Security of Radioactive Material and looks forward to a constructive participation.

10. Nigeria appreciates the efforts of the IAEA on its activities in promoting the importance of the early notification and assistance conventions and the improvements made therein. We urge IAEA to continue to improve and share as appropriate, its procedures and operational tools with Member States.

11. I am glad to inform that on 27th June 2018 the Steering Committee of the Regulatory Cooperative Forum approved Nigeria as an active recipient country eligible to receive Regulatory Cooperative Forum support from providers. We are sure that this will help in building a robust regulatory system to which Nigeria is committed.

12. Nigeria attaches great importance to reinforcing all aspects of nuclear safety. In this regard, my delegation believes that the outcome of the 6th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on Safety of Spent Fuel Management and Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and its predecessor meetings will further reinforce State Parties' national capabilities in this area.

13. Nigeria welcomes the focus of this year's Scientific Forum with the theme, - Nuclear Technology for Climate: Mitigation, Monitoring and Adaptation. In this regard, Nigeria's quest for the generation of electricity from nuclear resources cannot come at a better time especially with the dwindling of other energy resources. Equally important for us is the possible use of nuclear techniques to further address the negative impact of climate change in the Lake Chad region. In this region, the Lake Chad, a source of livelihood for millions of people in communities in Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroun, - is drying up. The Nigerian government is working with other leaders in the region and beyond to recharge the lake. My delegation therefore looks forward to the Scientific Forum and its outcomes.

Madam President,

14. Nigeria commends the efforts of the IAEA and her Member States over the years in the country's water sector through the provision of a Laser Spectroscopic Water Isotope Analyser and for conducting training programmes and workshops which have facilitated the acquisition of national capacity for effective application of Isotope Hydrology for the study of trans-boundary aquifer systems and basins. This has earned Nigeria a place as one

of the five (5) pilot countries participating in the regional project – RAF 7019 on “Adding the Groundwater Dimension to the Understanding and Management of Shared Water Resources in the Sahel Region”. This Project is to be implemented through the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement Project.

Madam President,

15. Nigeria has set in motion activities towards the acquisition of a Multi-purpose Research Reactor. This reactor is expected to contribute significantly to several developmental activities in the country particularly in the provision of radiopharmaceuticals to support cancer treatment and management. In this respect, Nigeria received, in February 2018, an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review Mission - Research Reactors of the IAEA.

16. Nigeria welcomes the convening of the 2018 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology and would ensure high level participation at the Conference.

17. In conclusion, Nigeria commends the IAEA for its role in promoting peaceful applications of nuclear energy for development and urges the Agency to continue in this regard.

18. Madam President, Our prayers are with DG Yukiya Amano, for his speedy recovery and safe return to Vienna.

19. I thank you Madam President.