



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT BY
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DURING THE IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, 28–30 NOVEMBER 2018, VIENNA
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, VIENNA AUSTRIA**

**Co-Chairs, Colleagues, Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of duty as Co-Chairs of this Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology. Please be assured of Uganda's support for the success of this Conference.
2. I take this opportunity to thank the Director General Yukiya Amano for his commendable leadership and for hosting this conference which focuses on the role of nuclear science and technology in addressing current and emerging development challenges.

Co-Chairs,

3. All States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons have an inalienable right to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Global cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology over the years has provided solutions to a number of challenges facing humanity in the areas of: - human health, agricultural productivity, water resource management, environmental restoration and energy.

4. In this regard, Uganda appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts in supporting Member States to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy. These efforts are a good step towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. We are aware that nuclear science and technology can be used to facilitate the attainment of nine (9) of the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals.
6. In the African region, little is known about the positive contribution of nuclear energy. However, I am convinced that this conference will raise awareness on the positive contribution of nuclear science and technology towards socio economic wellbeing of humanity.

Co-Chairs,

7. Non communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to be a global challenge and cancer in particular is one of the common NCD in Uganda. The incidence of cancer is about 300 new cancer cases for every population of 100,000 persons. To address this challenge, Uganda is implementing a Comprehensive National Cancer Control Programme which emphasizes prevention of cancers through early detection so that cases can be cured and palliative care for patients with advanced diseases. Nuclear applications such as radiotherapy and nuclear medicine are contributing towards this end by complementing conventional methods.

8. I take this opportunity to commend the Agency for the support towards the restoration of radiotherapy services in Uganda last year. More specifically, I thank Mr. Yukiya Amano for his support and physical presence during the commissioning of the Cobalt 60 – Machine at Uganda Cancer Institute.
9. Building on these developments, government continues to upgrade the nuclear medicine and radiotherapy infrastructure to include advance technologies such as; linear accelerators and Pet-scans. Uganda appreciates the Agency’s assistance towards the construction of six (6) radiotherapy bunkers at Uganda Cancer Institute, and human resource development to match the requirements of new technologies.

Co-Chairs,

10. The Joint Agency programme with Food and Agriculture Organization (IAEA-FAO) is a special partnership which continues to support Member States in the area of livestock health, enhancing crop productivity, pest control and food safety.
11. In recent years through this partnership Uganda’s capacity to screen food contaminants was enhanced through training of personnel and provision of state-of-the-art equipment. This is envisaged to have a ripple effect of increasing the national export potential for agricultural products.

12. I therefore take this opportunity to applaud the Agency and the Agriculture Organization for this initiative which aims at increasing agricultural productivity in a safe and sustainable manner for socio economic development of Member States.

Co-Chairs,

13. In the bid to realize universal access to affordable electricity by 2030, there is need to explore all available options for electricity generation such as; hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and nuclear, among others. Notably, Nuclear power plays an important role in providing large amounts of clean and reliable electricity to support the growing energy needs.

14. My country continues to assess all the available energy resources to ensure sustainable exploitation of these resources. Towards this end, government conducted pre-feasibility studies for the nuclear power programme which indicated that nuclear energy will have a role to play in the electricity generation mix. In this regard government is working towards creating an enabling environment for nuclear power development in Uganda.

15. Noting that Uganda is taking greater strides in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy, there is need for the capacity of the national nuclear regulatory body to match with new technologies. My government will continue cooperating with the Agency to ensure that Atomic Energy Council has the requisite capacity to regulate new and emerging nuclear energy practices in Uganda.

Finally, Co-Chairs,

16. With nuclear power prospects and the significant advancement of nuclear energy applications in terms of technology and quantity in the country, there is need to match human resources capacity with these developments. In addition, as a foundation for using nuclear energy, I would like to reaffirm Uganda's commitment towards strengthening the national infrastructure for nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards. Uganda will continue cooperating with the Agency on advancing the contribution of nuclear science and technology for socio economic development.

I thank you.