



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE 63RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

16TH TO 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2019.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

**DELIVERED BY ENG. COLLINS G. JUMA MBS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NUCLEAR POWER AND ENERGY AGENCY**

ON

18TH SEPTEMBER, 2019

**Madam President,
Acting Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Madam President,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of this General Conference. I assure you of my delegation's full support.

On behalf of Kenya, I would like to pay tribute to the late Director-General Dr. Yukiya Amano. We acknowledge with appreciation his great contribution to the Agency's work especially in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Madam President,

Kenya attaches great importance to the Agency's role in promoting the practical applications of nuclear science and technology which is integral in the achievement of national priorities and sustainable development goals.

Kenya continues to cooperate with the Agency through Technical Cooperation (TC) Projects in both National and Regional TC Projects as identified in the Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2017-2022.

Madam President,

Kenya's current national development priorities include universal health care, enhancing manufacturing, food security and nutrition and affordable housing. Energy is a key enabler in the implementation of the country's development plan. In March 2019, the Energy Act 2019 was signed, which among other provisions, provides for nuclear energy as one of the sources of generation of affordable, reliable and clean electricity in the country to meet her future electricity demand.

I wish to reiterate that Kenya has considered Nuclear energy as a potential priority in the long-term electricity generation to be included in the energy mix taking into account

that nuclear power is low carbon energy source that contributes to the mitigation of the impact of climate change and the achievement of SDGs.

Kenya welcomes the Agency's continued support in enhancing planning capabilities for the establishment of a nuclear power programme and in implementing the recommendations of the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review Mission (INIR) through the Integrated Work Plan (IWP). This is essential in developing a safe, secure and sustainable nuclear power programme.

Madam President,

With a view to strengthening nuclear safety and security regime as a state responsibility, Kenya has taken significant steps in improving the existing legal and regulatory framework for the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. In this context, the Nuclear Regulatory Bill is undergoing the final legislative process towards enactment. Further, Kenya recognizes the importance of assenting to relevant international Treaties and Conventions on nuclear safety and security including expressing political support to the code of conduct for safety and security for radioactive sources.

Madam President,

Kenya's population is about 52 million with an annual mortality of 33,000 due to cancer with 48,000 annual new incidences, eighty percent (80%) of those diagnosed with cancer need radiotherapy services.

In effort to take care of the access to the services, the Kenya has embarked on establishment of five more cancer centers. In order to build adequate human resource capacity for these facilities, the country in collaboration with the Agency, has endeavored to establish local training programmes for relevant health professionals.

Kenya is grateful for the Agency's ongoing support, in the expansion of radiotherapy services in Kenya and looks forward to successful conclusion of the ongoing collaborative work.

My delegation expresses gratitude to the Agency for dedicating this year's Scientific Forum to Cancer Control and the Way Forward.

Madam President,

Agriculture is key to Kenya's development and contributes 26 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs 70% of the total workforce. However, consistent drought spells, animal and plant pests and related diseases remain a serious problem and are one of the main causes of food insecurity. To tackle these challenges, the Government is expanding the use of irrigation, improving soil productivity and encouraging the use of efficient water management practices, while considering climate change impact on water scarcity, soil degradation and potential desalinization.

Kenya expresses gratitude to the continued capacity building by the Agency in nuclear techniques in agriculture, which has assisted in the development of irrigation schemes, developing and testing of drought and insect resistant crop varieties.

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. The use of nuclear techniques to evaluate and improve the impact of animal feeds on the performance of smallholder dairy cows has led to an increase in milk production by 72% of the cows fed the improved animal feeds.

Madam President,

In building the local Human Capital to safely apply Nuclear Science and Technology, the Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology at the University of Nairobi, is the focal point for teaching and training. Kenya continues to benefit from Agency through funding for training of personnel and procurement of scientific equipment through Technical Cooperation Projects. Kenya requests the Agency to continue supporting 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 catapult it to the required level to serve national and regional needs.

To promote standards, quality and accuracy in nuclear application, the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) through the Agency's support is currently expanding its scope to cover calibration in diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy application. The project will ensure

accuracy and traceability of equipment that utilize ionizing radiation for both medical and industrial applications.

Madam President,

Water is life. We thank the Agency for technical 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 Kenya, in conjunction with Agency, established and continues to equip the National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory.

Kenya also commends the Agency for the support in capacity building particularly in marine environment. Kenya continues to benefit from the training programmes in marine pollution, and use of nuclear technology in mitigating climate change.

Madam. President,

Kenya applauds the Agency on the ongoing preparatory work on the upcoming International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power. My country considers climate change as one of the most important issues the world is facing today, noting that nuclear power can make a significant contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, while at the same time fulfilling the increasing energy demands of a growing world population and supporting global sustainable development.

Madam President,

In conclusion, Kenya reaffirms its support to the Agency's activities and thanks the Agency for the invaluable contribution towards expanding and promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for development.

Finally, Madam President, I would like to wish the 63rd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference success in all its deliberations.

Thank You!