

Kingdom of Eswatini National Statement at the occasion of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

Presented by Ambassador J. M. NHLEKO (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation)

CO-PRESIDENTS,
DIRECTOR GENERAL,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate you Co-Presidents on your appointment and for your sterling leadership at this very important International Ministerial Conference.

In the same vein, allow me on behalf of the Kingdom of Eswatini to also congratulate the Director General, on his well deserved appointment. We have every confidence that he will be able to steer this organisation to greater heights. To that end, we assure him of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini's full support.

Distinguished Delegates, the Kingdom of Eswatini is pleased to participate at this year's International Conference on Nuclear Security under the theme "Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts". The Kingdom fully supports, and is also fully committed to the IAEA's international efforts to prevent nuclear and other radioactive materials from falling into the hands of terrorists, or its misuse, which would have far reaching consequences to humankind if not monitored and controlled. In this context, we fully subscribe to the Ministerial Declaration unanimously adopted yesterday, the 10th February 2020 by this August house which reaffirms Member States' commitment to sustaining and strengthening efforts on nuclear security.

The Kingdom of Eswatini adheres to its international law obligations and specific Agreements with the IAEA. The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini through the assistance of the IAEA, is also in the process of developing an effective legislative framework for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technology and therefore the establishment of an independent regulatory body is our highest priority.

As a Member of the IAEA since 2013, the Kingdom of Eswatini is already expanding its utilisation of nuclear science and technology through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, in various key priority areas such as:

- Nuclear and Radiation Safety;
- Food and Agriculture;
- Human Health and Nutrition;
- Energy Planning; and
- Water Resources Management.

Co-Presidents, Distinguished Delegates,

The Kingdom of Eswatini is a signatory to two of the **Safeguards Agreements** with the IAEA, namely- **Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Protocols Additional thereto.**

Additionally, Eswatini is a State Party to the **1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials (CPPNM) and the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials** and in light of the upcoming review of the amendments of this Convention in 2021, the

Kingdom of Eswatini is looking forward to further enhancing its implementation.

Co-Presidents, as we continue to witness an increasing threat of terrorism and the potential devastating effects thereof, the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini reiterates its full support and commitment to the redoubling of efforts by the IAEA in strengthening nuclear safety and further calls upon all Member States to ensure full support to the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally.

In conclusion, the commitments made in May 2016 when the ICON was last held, should continue to be upheld and should resonate as we renew our efforts and collective endeavours to deal with the emerging threats in 2020.

I thank you Co-Presidents
