



**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO THE IAEA**

HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR ZWELETHU MNISI

**TO THE 64th REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY GENERAL
CONFERENCE (IAEA)**

21-25 SEPTEMBER 2020

President of the 64th IAEA General Conference;

Director General of the IAEA;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates;

Let me seize this opportunity on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Eswatini to congratulate you on the successful organisation of this 64th Regular Session of the General Conference in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which has practically ground the world to a standstill.

Let me also congratulate the Agency for its continued leadership and support to countries in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, through the provision of equipment to detect the virus using nuclear techniques, as well as giving the relevant training and guidance. The Kingdom of Eswatini is a full beneficiary of this support and we extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Agency for that.

You will agree with me that one of the most important lessons learned from the COVID-19 situation is the recognition of the need to prevent future pandemics.

President, this Conference presents Member States with an opportunity to reflect on the gains and losses of the preceding year and we need to maximise on the efforts of the Agency thus far in carrying out its mandate of promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies which contributes to international peace and security including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As you may be aware distinguished delegates, the Kingdom of Eswatini became a Member State of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the 15th February, 2013 and started to actively engage with the Agency in 2015.

That notwithstanding, the Kingdom of Eswatini is already expanding its utilisation of nuclear science and technology through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme as reflected in the Country's Programme Framework for the period 2019-2023 which was signed with the Agency on the 6th May, 2019.

Currently, the Kingdom of Eswatini is implementing six projects under the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. We have a project on developing an integrated resource plan for evidence-based decision making in the energy and electricity sector whose main focus is to ensure

access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The next project is on reducing the incidence and impact of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases which aims at building capacity for our Veterinary Laboratory to efficiently diagnose diseases such as foot and mouth, African swine fever, Avian influenza, Newcastle, PPR, CBPP, lumpy skin, rabies, African Horse sickness, dourine and confirmatory for brucellosis.

We have a project on improving adaptability of cowpea to climate change through mutation breeding a project aimed at enhancing the use of mutant lines selected in previous germplasms.

There is a project on building capacity in the use of stable isotope techniques in the evaluation of interventions to improve infant and young child feeding practices. The Kingdom of Eswatini has been faced by an increase in chronic malnutrition in children under five years of age while key infant feeding practices have been adversely affected by the triple threat of poverty, HIV and recurrent droughts. This project is aimed at addressing these challenges.

The next project is on preparing for the first radiotherapy facility whose aim is to address the double burden of

communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including cancer.

The last project under the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme is on assessing the rates of exclusive breastfeeding in children up to four months. The aim of this project is to determine the breastfeeding practices of mothers in the Kingdom of Eswatini using stable isotope techniques.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is also participating in the regional project called supporting Member States to increase access to affordable, equitable, effective and sustainable radiation medicine services within a comprehensive cancer control system.

President, there are also new projects which the Kingdom of Eswatini is proposing for the 2020-2022 Technical Cooperation Cycle and they are all at the design stage.

In the area of nuclear and radiation safety, we wish to report that the Kingdom of Eswatini adheres to its international law obligations and specific Agreements with the IAEA notwithstanding the absence of a specific law on radiation safety and security. However, it is important to note that the Kingdom of Eswatini is in the process of developing an effective legislative framework for the safe, secure and

peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the establishment of an independent regulatory body is the highest priority.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, the Kingdom of Eswatini will continue to be fully engaged with the Agency with the view of ensuring the country's commitment to the IAEA's vision and guidance in supporting national development priorities where the use of nuclear technology is an essential element for the achievement of national objectives in a cost-effective, safe and secure manner.

I thank you for your attention!