

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**RWANDA STATEMENT AT THE 65<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**DELIVERED BY:**

**Dr. ERNEST NSABIMANA  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
RWANDA UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (RURA)**

**Vienna, 22 September 2021**

- **President of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Conference,**
- **Excellencies Ministers,**
- **Excellencies Ambassadors,**
- **Heads of Delegation,**
- **Director General of IAEA,**
- **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**1. First and foremost, Mr. President, I wish to join all previous speakers in congratulating you for your election as President of this year's General Conference.**

**2. Rest assured of the support of Rwanda delegation for your success.**

**Mr. President**

**3. In our effort to meet sustainable development goals, Rwanda committed to promoting peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.**

**4. In close collaboration with the Agency, the Republic of Rwanda continues to build a strong legal, institutional and regulatory framework, which is essential to enable safe use of nuclear science and technology applications.**

**5. For example, last year, Rwanda established the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board (RAEB).**

**6. The established Board will play a significant role in accelerating atomic energy development in clean energy, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, industry, environment, geology and mining.**

**7. In cooperation with the Agency, we are carrying out projects in medical physics, radiation oncology, and radiation therapy and we look forward to more partnerships in various areas including energy planning, food and agriculture, health and nutrition, nuclear knowledge development & management, radiation safety, water and environment.**

**8. We thank the Agency for its continuous support and we look forward to furthering our collaboration in order to build back better from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

**Mr. President**

- 9. As I conclude, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the leadership of the Agency for its firm commitment to promote the education of women and girls in nuclear science.**
- 10. I also wish to reiterate the commitment of Rwanda in supporting the work of the Agency to achieve its vision and mission.**
- 11. In this regard, Rwanda will continue to meet its obligations and commitments as a Member State.**
- 12. At the occasion of this General Conference, Rwanda has availed the instruments of acceptance for the following conventions:**
  - ✓ Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident,**
  - ✓ Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency,**
  - ✓ Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and,**
  - ✓ The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radiological Waste Management.**
- 13. Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to mention that Rwanda will host the 33<sup>rd</sup> AFRA Technical Working Group Meeting in 2022.**
- 14. We wish to invite AFRA Member States to this important Meeting.**
- 15. We hope that the covid-19 pandemic conditions will allow a physical meeting and we look forward to having many participants coming to Rwanda.**
- 16. Indeed, Rwanda's COVID-19 response has been swift and robust. Since the vaccination campaign started in late March this year, so far, in the Capital City Kigali, 93% of the adult population (18 years old and above) have got their first dose and 67% have been fully vaccinated and in some other areas across the country, above 20% of the adult population is fully vaccinated or has got their first dose. Vaccination efforts will continue until the adult population is fully vaccinated.**
- 17. We thank the Agency for its timely support through provision of COVID-19 testing kits and other materials.**
- 18. I thank you for your kind attention.**