



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

HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR VUYILE DLAMINI

**THE 66th REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

26th - 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

President of the 66th IAEA General Conference;

Director General of the IAEA;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellencies Ambassadors present here,

Distinguished Colleagues and Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon!!

Mr. President, allow me to join all those who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election as President of the 66th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Let me seize this opportunity to applaud the Agency under the leadership of the Director General Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, for the expeditious way in which you have continued to support countries in responding to the various developmental challenges that we face on a daily basis, amid the turbulent times we are in, spanning from climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and the geopolitical tensions that the world is currently faced with.

The Kingdom of Eswatini also acknowledges and appreciates the Fellowship awards extended to fellow Eswatini nationals for training in various fields of discipline; including sponsorships for attending meetings, workshops and scientific visits.

With the assistance of IAEA in 2017, Eswatini welcomed the first ImPACT Review Assessment which catalysed the establishment of the Cancer Registry and the Cancer Control Unit. The assistance from IAEA has seen the capacity of cancer control growing rapidly in the country, coupled with additional assistance coming from other development partners and donors.

Again, leveraging from the IAEA's technical assistance in the development of the draft "Bankable Documents for the Establishment of the First Radiotherapy Facility" in the country, we are happy to report that the Radiotherapy Facility whose designs are being finalized, is planned to be constructed at the Repurposed Manzini Hospital (Former TB Hospital) after which they will be shared with the IAEA for their valuable comments. We anticipate that the facility will relieve the country of the expense of sending cancer patients for treatment outside the country thus improving the quality of lives of our people.

Mr. President, the country has made considerable progress in the development of a nuclear law as well as the relevant regulatory infrastructure to provide for the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Eswatini. It is anticipated that the law will be operational by early 2023.

Also, an interim Regulatory Structure/Body has been put in place to set up stage for the smooth implementation of the law once adopted. This includes but not in any case limited to the appointment of coordinators for implementing the various tasks and expectations under the IAEA Statutes and other strategic guidance documents, and the finalization of the national inventory of

radioactive materials and waste as well as the construction of the radiotherapy facility.

The Kingdom of Eswatini is of course continuously and incrementally 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 under which several projects are being implemented.

Also, under the AFRA Programme, the country has joined a number of regional projects to strengthen and enlarge the contribution of nuclear science and technology to the socio-economic development of our country.

Before ending Mr. President, allow me to report that in line with Resolution GC(65)/RES/8, adopted by the IAEA General Conference in September 2021, the Kingdom of Eswatini is already engaged in the process of becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency whose importance can never be underestimated. These are the two important multilateral treaties which represent an important cornerstone and framework of international emergency preparedness and response. Coupled with that the Kingdom has as of the 18th August, 2022 accepted the Revised African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA).

Mr. President, let me end finally by asserting and reconfirming Eswatini's commitment to the IAEA's core mandate of promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, and as the

world's centre for cooperation in the nuclear field. Eswatini will continue to be fully engaged with the Agency in this regard.

I thank you for your kind attention!!
