

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. KWAKU AFRIYIE, MD  
- MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT THE 66<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR  
SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA,  
AUSTRIA, FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

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**Mr. President,**

**Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I join earlier speakers to warmly congratulate you and your bureau on your election to lead this session, and to commend you for the professional conduct of this meeting so far. We assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duties.

**Mr. President,**

2. Ghana appreciates the continued support and assistance from the Agency through the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme, the Integrated Work Plan (IWP) and towards the implementation of the IAEA Milestones Approach in the development of nuclear power programme in Ghana. We are currently undertaking Phase 2 activities of the Milestone Approach.

3. On 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo made a declaration accepting the content of the Programme Comprehensive Report (PCR) to advance the nuclear power programme of Ghana.

**Mr. President,**

5. The peaceful application of radioactive materials in various socio-economic sectors requires an effective regulatory framework that tackles safety, security and safeguards issues.

6. The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) of Ghana is operationalizing the National Legislative Framework on nuclear matters and facilitating the establishment of national policies and strategies for radiation safety and radioactive waste management in Ghana.

7. Working towards its vision of building a robust and stable regulatory framework, the NRA will continue to seek the support of the IAEA, and other experienced regulators at the international level.

8. Consistent with international best practice, a suite of safety case documentation prepared by GAEC and reviewed by IAEA experts has been submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Authority for site approval to construct a borehole disposal facility. The successful implementation of the borehole disposal system (BDS), will not only provide the country with a licensed disposal facility for disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS) but will also

provide human and technical capabilities required for the country's nuclear power programme.

**Mr. President,**

10. Ghana recognizes the central role of the Agency to improve nuclear security globally. Cognizant of the principled position that nuclear security within a State is entirely the responsibility of that State, Ghana has embarked on a number of activities, including regulatory oversight, to strengthen its nuclear security regime.

**Mr. President,**

12. Ghana joins other Member States to express deep concerns about safety and security issues relating to the Nuclear Power Plants in Ukraine, particularly, the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. The ongoing dangerous activities in and around the facility continue to pose significant threat to the facility, human health and the environment. We, therefore, urge the parties to immediately cease hostilities and shelling at the power plant. We also call for an immediate demilitarization of the plant.

13. Ghana supports the seven recommendations outlined in the Director General's report aimed at re-establishing nuclear safety and security at the site. We support the Agency's continued presence at the power plant to help stabilize the situation and continue to monitor the operations of the plant.

14. Ghana has always held the view that diplomacy is the surest way to resolve the issues and calls on the parties to give dialogue a chance.

**Mr. President,**

15. The country has embraced the IAEA's Rays of Hope initiative and is strengthening its Cancer Control Programme through upgrade of existing radiotherapy facilities and establishment of new centres. Capacities for strengthening cancer registries, building human resource and applying artificial intelligence (AI) in human health are continually being pursued.

**Mr. President,**

17. To enhance the management of water resources in the country and attain Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Ghana has integrated Isotope Hydrology in its Water Resource programmes as a complementary tool to existing technologies.

Ghana is also involved in the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the Sahel Project, RAF 7021 Project: *Enhancing, Planning, Management and Sustainable Utilisation of Water Resources.*

**Mr. President,**

18. Ghana's participation in the IAEA NUTEC Plastics Project is yielding positive results. Currently, we are investigating the applications of ionizing radiation technology as a complementary treatment in recycling hard-to-

recycle plastic waste in Ghana. This contributes to the roadmap to establishing a recycling facility to help manage plastic waste in the country.

**Mr. President, Excellencies,**

19. The accelerator facility, established in Ghana since 2016, continues to benefit from IAEA support in diverse forms. The IAEA has recently approved a 4-year (2022-2025) Technical Cooperation Project (GHA1014) to upgrade the facility for analytical services, research, and education and training for national development.

**Mr. President,**

21. With support from the IAEA, Ghana is implementing several projects which focus on development of technologies, technology transfer and capacity building in nuclear science and technology applications in food and climate smart agriculture, non-destructive testing (NDT), healthcare, environmental quality, etc.

22. We are confident that continuous collaboration and support from the IAEA and other development partners will enable Ghana to transform its agri-food systems to increase productivity and climate resilience, towards meeting key SGD targets.

**Mr. President,**

24. Ghana acknowledges the IAEA's roles in implementing the Human Resource Development (HRD) initiatives and Nuclear Knowledge Management (NKM) programme at the Graduate School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS). We are grateful to the IAEA for this opportunity and continue to seek extension of the Practical Arrangements between the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (SNAS) and the IAEA in the area of Nuclear Knowledge Management.

25. The establishment in 2019 of Women in Nuclear Ghana (WiN-Ghana) a chapter of Women in Nuclear Global has helped mobilize and support women in the various nuclear-related fields in Ghana. WiN-Ghana has been working to encourage and mentor young women and girls in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and nuclear sciences and technology. Initiatives like these, complement the Agency's support for postgraduate education of some female nationals through the IAEA Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme for which we are very grateful.

**Mr. President,**

26. I would like to conclude by assuring you of Ghana's continued support to the IAEA in the discharge of its mandate.

27. I thank you for your kind attention.