



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE 66TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY
26TH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2022.
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

DELIVERED BY

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ON

27TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Mr. President,
Rafael Grossi IAEA Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

The Kenya delegation congratulates you and members of the bureau on your election to preside over this 66th IAEA General Conference and I assure you of Kenya's full support. Kenya commends the IAEA for its important role in promoting the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. We recognize the immense potential of the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in assisting Member States including Kenya to address some of the growing and pressing global challenges including climate change, energy security, food security, plastic pollution and human health.

Mr. President

Kenya has made significant progress in its endeavour to introduce nuclear power in its energy mix. In this connection, my delegation thanks the Agency for the continued support and looks forward to enhanced collaboration in human capital, workforce development, education, training, public participation and acceptance, with the ultimate goal being to attain high standards and practices in nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and nonproliferation.

Kenya recognizes the important role of Research & Development for its nuclear power programme and the development of key sectors to spur economic growth. Kenya has continued to implement the Kenya Nuclear Research Reactor project which was introduced based on national needs assessment. In order to ensure a viable and sustainable implementation of the project, Kenya is currently carrying out a feasibility study, which seeks to identify obligations and commitments

necessary for the safe and sustainable implementation of the project. Kenya is grateful for the IAEA's support and seeks greater collaboration to ensure the realization of the research reactor programme.

Mr. President

Kenya is developing subsidiary legislation to operationalize the Nuclear Regulatory Act of 2019, with a view to enhancing the regulatory framework in radiation safety, security of nuclear materials and associated facilities, radioactive waste management, radioactive consumer products, emergency preparedness and response, as well as the safe transport of radioactive materials. Competency development of regulatory authority staff and stakeholders in radiation protection and safety remains a priority.

In this connection Kenya is planning to host the Postgraduate Educational Course (PGEC) in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources in October 2023. This programme will greatly assist in building human resource capacity for regulatory staff, nationally and in the region. Kenya thanks the Agency for the support.

Mr. President

Kenya reports notable progress in the development and improvement of cancer management through the support of the Agency through the development and strengthening of requisite human and institutional capacity in different fields of radiation medicine. Through partnership with the IAEA, local training programs in radiation oncology, medical physics, therapy radiographers and oncology nursing have been established in Kenya. Kenya has benefited from the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy missions from the IAEA with the most recent one conducted in June 2022. These missions have informed appropriate prioritization and development of the National Cancer Strategic Plans. My delegation welcomes

the Rays of Hope initiative by the Director General and appreciates that through the initiative Kenya will receive two linear accelerator machines to equip two regional cancer centers. Kenya has invested substantially in the efforts to fight cancer and has committed resources. As one of the pilot countries of the initiative, we look forward to Kenya being designated as an anchor center. We will continue sharing our expertise and facilities with the countries in our region in the efforts to combat the cancer scourge together.

Mr. President

Kenya is pursuing efforts towards addressing the increased risk of non-communicable diseases that are becoming a burden. Kenya has cases of the triple burden of malnutrition, under-nutrition and obesity. With the Agency's support, Kenya has developed and is implementing a nutrition project applying atomic precision in nutrition assessment to establish fat and fat free mass.

Mr. President

Human Resource Development and Nuclear Knowledge Management are key to the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. Kenya thanks the Agency for the introduction of a framework and support for Regional Designated Centers. Kenya has already applied to host and has been audited in 5 possible Regional Designated Centers. We appreciate the IAEA for this initiative that targets to build a vast pool of experts in Nuclear Science and Technology in Africa. I am also happy to note that Kenya was selected to pilot the Nuclear Science Education in secondary schools. Already two schools have been designated; teaching aid kits have been sourced by the IAEA and two female teachers from the schools trained under the Train- the-Trainers course on the use of nuclear instrumentation educational kits for Secondary schools in Africa. Kenya is grateful to the IAEA support and looks forward to further collaborations.

Mr. President

Nuclear application techniques in Agriculture have facilitated the development of technologies and practices of addressing the challenges in production due to climate change, soil, and land degradation. In this regard, I wish to report that Kenya has successfully used nuclear techniques to drive smallholder productivity by using labeled fertilizers to measure and improve Nutrient Use Efficiency and biological nitrogen fixation of improved bean varieties.

This has increased water use efficiencies for smallholder farmers by up to 80% and aided in the design of fertilization regimes for cereal-legume intercrops. Kenya has received nuclear-related equipment capacity to determine soil moisture evaporation and plant transpiration, to improve water use efficiency, nutrient use efficiency, Water Use Efficiency, Greenhouse gas measurement systems and to determine the effects cropping systems to climate change. This information is critical for determining appropriate climate change adaptation practices that are consistent with government climate smart policy. In animal production, efforts continue in breeding of climate smart grasses. Two *Bracharia* mutant varieties have been released for farmer uptake.

Mr. President

Kenya continues to collaborate with IAEA in water resources assessment for its availability, accessibility, management and sustainability. With the Assistance of the Agency, Kenya has made key milestones including Inventory of the National Hydrological gaps in terms of data and information availability, building professionals and infrastructure capacity, as well as establishment and progressive equipping of National Isotope hydrology laboratory. Human capacity has also been developed in this respect through the assistance of the Agency.

Kenya highly appreciates the continued collaboration in the application of the Isotope Hydrology techniques in water resources assessment, which ensures water resources availability and sustainable management.

Mr. President

Kenya is exploring the socioeconomic benefits of the blue economy. The preservation of the marine life and the management of ocean plastic pollution through the use of nuclear technology. Kenya through the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute with the support of IAEA, has been able to put in place a pollution monitoring programme covering 3 coastal counties. The programme covers major contaminants and ocean acidification, monitoring plastics in the environment and finding practical solutions for plastics management in Kenya.

Mr. President,

Kenya appreciates the collaboration with the IAEA in establishment of Non-Destructive Testing and Dosimetry laboratories at Kenya Bureau of Standards. These have benefitted the industrial and healthcare sectors by providing traceability to the International System of Units through calibration services. Non-Destructive Testing laboratory has supported the oil and gas industry through training, welder certification scheme and testing to check for compliance with stipulated standards. With the assistance of the IAEA, Kenya has been able to expand the radiology modernization as well as expanding the scope of the Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory to ensure quality, traceability, calibration, standards and accuracy of diagnostic and treatment equipment. Kenya also thanks the IAEA for the support in acquiring the cobalt 60 in Kenya Bureau of Standards.

In conclusion, *Mr. President*, Kenya is grateful to the IAEA for its continued support in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for sustainable development. I wish this 66th Regular Session of General Conference fruitful deliberations.

I Thank You.