

**NATIONAL STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E.  
AMBASSADOR ZUBAIRU DADA, HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
THE DURING THE 66<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA IN VIENNA ON 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2022**

**Mr. President,**

My delegation congratulates H.E. Mr. Alessandro CORTESE, Ambassador/Resident Representative of Italy, on your election as the President of the 2022 General Conference. My delegation also appreciates the leadership of the IAEA for organising the event. Nigeria also congratulates the Bureau of the General Conference on their elections. My delegation expresses confidence in the outcome of the General Conference under your leadership and assures you of Nigeria's support. My delegation appreciates Dr. Antonio GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations for his goodwill message to the General Conference. We thank the organisers for inviting Nigeria to the event.

**Mr. President,**

2. My delegation appreciates Mr. Rafael Mariano GROSSI, the Director-General of the IAEA for his introductory statements, who despite short fall in finances due to global economic downturn and the COVID-19 restrictions, has consistently continued to respond to the requests of member states of the IAEA community and implementation of the

programmes and projects as approved in the previous RESOLUTIONS. Nigeria further expresses support for the Agency's programmes and projects.

3. Nigeria takes note of the Summary of Results Achieved for each Major Programme in 2020 – 2021 and the Annual Report for Year 2021. The programme 1 on Nuclear Power, Fuel Cycle and Nuclear Science; programme 2 on Nuclear Techniques for development and Environmental Protection; programme 3 on Nuclear Safety and Security; programme 4 on Nuclear Verification; programme 5 on Policy, Management and Administrative Services as well as programme 6 on Management of Technical Cooperation for Development respectively.

**Mr. President,**

4. On the Management of Technical Cooperation for Development, Nigeria takes note of the Technical Cooperation Projects under the auspices of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) within the period under review and commends the efforts of the Agency, including the review of the AFRA agreement and wishes to express our support for its full implementation, as envisaged by the AFRA

Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework for the period 2019-2023 and beyond, as requested in the resolution of the GC(65)/RES/10.

5. These activities carried out in Nigeria includes support for radiation technologies industrial applications and preventive maintenance of nuclear and medical equipment; capacity building in medical fields and improving safety and effectiveness of medical equipment; application of radiation technologies to assess sediment transport for the management of coastal infrastructures.

**Mr. President,**

6. Other areas that Nigeria received assistance from the Agency include strengthening radioactive waste management in Africa; strengthening and improving radio-pharmacy services in Africa; enhancing the capacity of National Regulatory bodies for safety in AFRA member states; strengthening food contamination monitoring and control systems and enhancing competitiveness of agricultural exports using nuclear and isotopic techniques as well as enhancing capacity for detection, surveillance and suspension of exotic and established fruit fly species through integration of sterile insect techniques with other suppression methods; in addition to educational capacity building in relevant fields to the member states.

7. My delegation expresses support for the strengthening of the activities of the Agency on technical cooperation. Nigeria seizes this opportunity to request the Agency to increase the number of projects and programmes implemented in member states in line with their needs to achieve the most desired goals and purposes. Nigeria also calls on the Agency to the non-implementation of some national programmes and activities in my country, namely; Senior management Training in Integrated Management System in Nuclear Power Plant projects as well as licensing application in the construction phase, to mention but a few, calls on the IAEA to implement as soon as possible. Nigeria, also calls on the member states to support strengthening the activities of the Agency on technical cooperation (TC), including timely settlement of their assessed contributions to the Agency regularly. Nigeria has made some extra-budgetary contribution towards the ReNuAL projects, paid its TC and AFRA contributions and is making further efforts to pay more.

**Mr. President,**

8. Nigeria takes note of the cross-cutting projects of the Agency, namely; Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP), Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics), Rays of Hope: Cancer Care

as well as other initiatives of the Agency and to express our support for the Agency.

9. My delegation requests the Agency to ensure full implementation of the programmes on nuclear power: including launching new nuclear power programmes, enhancing nuclear power plants and expansion of nuclear power programmes, especially in the developing member states.

**Mr. President,**

10. My delegation also takes note of the aspect of the report on non-power nuclear applications to enhance human health through Radiotherapy, Radioisotope production and Radiation Technology for medicines, agricultural products and food security, as well as improving supply of water resources, and the use of nuclear technology to solve environmental pollutions. This is another milestone of peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nigeria appreciates the Agency on these feats and pledges our support for the Agency.

11. My delegation further wishes to inform that Nigeria received from the Agency the Occupational Radiation Protection Appraisal Services (ORPAS) Mission from 10<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The mission was geared towards independently assessing the status of Occupational Radiation Protection (ORP). The Mission also visited some pre-identified facilities

representative of typical practices and activities from Operators and Technical Services Providers in Abuja, Lagos, and Ibadan. During the visit, the Mission found some good enforcement mechanism of occupational radiation protection requirements, development of National Dose Registry (NDR), stakeholders' involvement participations during development of regulations, authorisation of Technical Service Providers and Advisory Services, Organisation of external and in-country training for radiation safety, implementation of Radiation Protection Programme, Good documentation system, good safety culture, adequate posting of local language radiation warning system and implementation of quality management system.

**Mr. President,**

12. My delegation also appreciates the Agency for coordinating with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international organisations for the continued assistance to Member States despite the COVID-19 restrictions. Nigeria takes cognisance of the Agency's efforts in validating the COVID-19 detection kits and the 51 Diagnostic Laboratories (VETLAB) supporting the human diagnostic laboratory testing of COVID-19. My delegation noted that, more than 300 medical and veterinary laboratories were provided by the Agency to support the member states against

COVID-19 pandemic, and that about 2,036 consignments of equipment and supplies were delivered to 129 countries and territories.

**Mr. President,**

13. Nigeria further appreciates the Agency for increasing partnership with the Member States in capacity building and training through research and technical cooperation amongst Member States, in the fight against tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis strategies and cost-effective integration of sterile insect techniques (SIT) in area-wide integrated pest management (AW-IPM) campaign in Africa. My delegation further appreciates the efforts of the Agency in its support for planning and implementation of SIT in the country under regional project irradiation capacity RAF/5/080. My delegation further appreciates the Agency for the continued strengthening of collaboration with the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)

**Mr. President,**

14. Nigeria further appreciates the Agency for granting its request for inclusion in the Rays of Hope, Cancer Care Initiative of the Director-General. My delegation, also thanks the Director-General, Mr. Rafael Mariano GROSSI for hosting the spouse of the Nigerian Vice President, Mrs. Dolapo OSINBAJO, who visited Vienna in May 2022, to explore the possibility of collaborating with the Agency on Rays of Hope Initiative in

Nigeria. The discussion is already yielding positive results. As a follow-up, there was a virtual meeting between the Director-General of the Agency and Dr. Osagie EHANIREN, Honourable Minister of Health, aimed at addressing cancer management in the country, especially On Radiotherapy and PET Nuclear Medicine Centres broadly.

15. In conclusion, Nigeria needs further support from the Agency in the following areas: TC support programmes including Nuclear Power Programme support, Rays of Hope support, ZODIAC support, Internet Reactor Lab support for training and education. It is our hope that Nigeria which is strategically located in our sub region should serve as the IAEA training hub.

**Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,**

16. In line with paragraph 15 above, my delegation wishes to endorse the 2021 report of the Director-General, relating to 'Strengthening the Agency's Activities on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications as provided in document GC/2022/30-GC(66)/9, and 'Strengthening the activities of the Technical Cooperation' for the consideration of the General Conference.

I thank you.