

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



RWANDA STATEMENT AT THE 66TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

DELIVERED BY:

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- ❖ **Mr. President,**
- ❖ **Excellencies Ministers,**
- ❖ **Excellencies Ambassadors,**
- ❖ **Heads of Delegation,**
- ❖ **Director General of IAEA,**
- ❖ **Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Rwandan delegation during this 66th Regular Session of the General Conference;
2. I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of this year's General Conference; and
3. I wish to pledge the full support and cooperation of the Rwandan delegation.
4. Rwanda views nuclear science and technology as one of the milestones to attain the laid-out Vision 2050, aimed at citizen-centered prosperity and improving the quality of life for all where we have a target of achieving upper-middle income status by 2035 and high-income status by 2050. Along with our effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we are committed to promote the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.
5. The government of Rwanda has therefore established the Rwanda Atomic Energy Board to play a vital role in accelerating atomic energy development in clean energy power production, food and agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, industry, environment, geology and mining.
6. Through this Board, the Government has initiated the process to develop a Nuclear Centre for Science and Technology, and a nuclear power plant based on Small Modular Reactors technologies. The Government of Rwanda is fully aware these SMR technologies are new and mostly under development. Therefore, Rwanda wishes to establish partnerships with interested companies during the

technologies' development process with the objective to accelerate knowledge and technology transfer, and skills development. We salute the Agency's support day to day to reach this aim.

Mr. President

7. Rwanda reiterates the importance of global efforts towards nuclear security and the commitment of the Agency and the Member States towards a more effective worldwide nuclear security. Rwanda recognises and fully supports the IAEA's central role in enhancing and strengthening nuclear security worldwide.

8. Rwanda recognises the importance of nuclear security in preventing the unauthorised use of nuclear material and nuclear technology. In this regard, we thank the IAEA for providing the expertise to establish, maintain and review related plans. This contributes to meaningfully strengthening our infrastructure, and human capacity development leading to sustaining our national security thus meaningfully contributing to regional and finally to global security.

Mr. President

9. In conclusion, therefore, Rwanda reiterates her commitment to IAEA. We thank the Agency, the Director General and his entire team for the invaluable contribution towards expanding and promoting nuclear science and Technology for development.

10. Allow me, Mr President, to wish the 66th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference success in all its deliberations.

Thank You for your kind attention