



**STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AT THE 67TH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

27TH SEPTEMBER 2023.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SENATE BARBARA
MASUPHA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO IAEA**

I Acknowledge with my Utmost Humility the Presence of God Almighty in our midst.

President of the 67th Session of the General Conference

Director General of IAEA

Honorable Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

I am honored and privileged to address this 67th General Conference of IAEA as the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho to IAEA and bring greetings from the Government and the people of Lesotho.

Your Excellency Ms. Vilawan Mangklatanukul of Thailand, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 67th Session of the General Conference of IAEA, and pledge our full support under your eminent leadership. We would also like to congratulate Director General, H.E. Rafael Mariano Grossi, on his well-deserved re-appointment as IAEA Director General for a second term of four years due to his decisive leadership and commitment towards the reform of the organization and to make it more responsive and transformative to the evolving challenges facing peaceful nuclear energy and sustainable economic development in the global arena.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho places great importance on the essence and significance of the IAEA's unceasing support and contributions towards the goals and priorities of IAEA in our countries, particularly in the African continent. Moreover, The Kingdom of Lesotho supports the initiatives undertaken by IAEA's Director-General, particularly the efforts related to the strategic reform and the financial consolidation essential for the efficiency and effectiveness of the

Organization in carrying out its mandate, as well as national, regional and international projects that foster IAEA's global priorities.

Madam President

Distinguished Delegates

Lesotho Government integrally subscribes to the need for a Strategic Transformation of IAEA in alignment with the common African position that advocates for a new re-configuration of the United Nations Systems in general, to correspond to the current geopolitical reality, with special focus on competent representation in the ongoing efforts to concretize the developmental global agenda, particularly in the African Continent. In this context, we commend and align with the impactful work of the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA).

In the context of Rays of Hope Campaign- Cancer care for all Campaign, the Director General has correctly reported that about 70 percent of African Member States remain without radiotherapy facilities. Rays of Hope should be taken as a robust turnaround blueprint to bring the affected IAEA Member States out of thorny health circumstances – It is unconscionable that a large number of African States, about 20 percent of the world population, is lagging behind in attaining sustainable development 3 and other international, regional and national obligatory instruments related to the right to health. This implies that, there exists an urgent need to reinvigorate our collective commitment for solidarity in bringing about lasting solutions to complex challenges and bridge digital divides.

To this end, Lesotho has started constructing its first radiotherapy facility with assistance from the IAEA and hope that we will be able to treat our patients in the near future. Moreover the IAEA continues to support Lesotho's efforts in improving its regulatory infrastructure to ensure radiation safety, including application of nuclear technologies in our priority sectors such as agriculture, water management and industry.

Madam President,

The Government of Lesotho further welcomes IAEA's sustained efforts to empower all vulnerable people in the society including girls and women through the IAEA's Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP), the Lise Meitner Programme. The attention accorded to promotion of gender equality remains high on the development agenda of Lesotho Government. This is based on the vision for securing a future that is inclusive and sustainable through economic growth propelled by quality education.

Madam President

Excellences

Distinguished Delegates

The lofty mission of IAEA matters and will certainly remain alive in an ever-changing world plagued by constant threats to nuclear security and peace. On that note, allow us once again to reiterate our commitment to the noble ideals of multilateralism and reaffirm that Lesotho will maintain the momentum to support IAEA towards building a peaceful nuclear energy and sustainable economic development across the globe.

May God Almighty Bless you all.