



**NATIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE  
67<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA ON 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**BY**

**AMBASSADOR ADAMU IBRAHIM LAMUWA  
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Madame President,

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and my delegation, I bring to you greetings from President Bola Ahmed TINUBU, GCFR. I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the IAEA-General Conference and to assure you and your Bureau of Nigeria's full support and cooperation towards achieving success in this Conference. Nigeria strongly believes that you will bring your valuable experience to bear, in ensuring this conference attains good outcome. My delegation seizes this opportunity to welcome our African sister member states, **Cabo Verde and The Gambia** to the IAEA family. This brings to 48 the **total number of African countries to the fold.**

2. My delegation congratulates the IAEA Director-General, Mr. Rafael Mariano GROSSI for his 2<sup>nd</sup> term re-election as Director General of IAEA, and the Secretariat of the IAEA for the excellent arrangements put in place to ensure a hitch-free Conference. Nigeria further appreciates the Director-General for his introductory Statement and Report for the year 2022.

3. Since 1957 when the IAEA was created for the promotion of safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, the IAEA has continued to prove its worth as a veritable global institution for 'peace and development'. Nigeria expresses its support to the leadership of the Agency and its activities, especially as it relates to technical co-operation, nuclear science and technology and its applications, as well as improvements in the effectiveness and the efficiency of Agency Safeguards. We fully support and participate in the IAEA initiatives such as the Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NuTec Plastics, Atoms for Peace and Development, amongst others.

Madame President,

4. This year's General Conference has given a strong foundation to the SCIENTIFIC Forum with a theme on "***Nuclear Innovations for Net Zero***". This is not only apt but very important. Nigeria will continue to appreciate the IAEA for its roles that it plays in ensuring the attainment of global net-zero by 2050. Indeed, the world cannot afford to miss this target.

5. As global interests in climate change mitigation continues to heighten and nations are considering different energy options available that will enable them tackle the challenges posed by climate change, Nigeria welcomes the convening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Climate

Change and the Role of Nuclear Power to be held here in Vienna, Austria next month. Nigeria believes that this is an important step which will go a long way towards providing an opportunity for Member States in understanding the significant role that nuclear energy can play in addressing the rising global challenges associated with climate change and will further encourage countries to consider including nuclear energy as part of their national energy mix.

Madame President,

6. My delegation appreciates the selection of Nigeria to be among the three countries (Nigeria, Tanzania and Senegal) from Africa to be part of the First IAEA Group Fellowships Program for IAEA National Liaison Assistants. I understand that a total of eight (8) countries participated in this maiden edition of the fellowship from across the globe. Nigeria believes that this program has strengthened the capacity of the NLO's office in terms of service delivery and proper IAEA program coordination.

7. Nigeria hosted the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) Mission, which was carried out at the request of Nigeria in July, 2023 in Abuja, Nigeria. The review mission was aimed at assessing Nigeria's nuclear security regime with a view to providing recommendations that will enhance its effectiveness. The mission covered the assessment of the physical protection systems at the Nigeria Research Reactor – 1 facility, the Temporary Waste Storage Facility, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Radiotherapy Department and the Gamma Irradiation Facility at the Nuclear Technology Centre (NTC). My delegation valued the contributions of

IAEA and the recommendations of the Mission in enhancing our physical protection system.

8. Furthermore, Nigeria in collaboration with the IAEA, organised a number of regional and national meetings including the Regional Training Course on Authorization and Inspection of Radiotherapy facilities with Linear Accelerators, Regional training on Advanced Climate Smart Agricultural Practices to increase cassava production in Africa in Abuja, Nigeria from 21 August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. These events provided avenues for devising concrete strategies for enhanced project implementation and impact in Africa. I want to use this opportunity to thank the IAEA for the confidence and effective cooperation which ensured the success of these events. We look forward to hosting more events of the IAEA in the future.

Madame President,

9. While interest in the utilization of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) is increasing across the globe and the development of the reactors continues to evolve, Nigeria appreciates the role of the IAEA in providing information on the various concepts and designs of the SMRs from different countries and vendors and the deployment of several regional and national projects and programmes in SMRs. Nigeria looks forward to a greater engagement and collaboration with the IAEA and other global partners in the coming months and years to discuss the immense potentials of the SMRs. This would enable nations like Nigeria benefit from this technology in solving their electricity supply inadequacies for the acceleration of industrial development and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

10. I want to use this opportunity to thank the IAEA and indeed other partner institutions that contributed significantly to the work leading to the finalization of Nigeria's 4<sup>th</sup> Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the Cycle 2024 to 2029. This CPF will be signed during this conference. My country looks forward to working with the Agency in the implementation of the various elements of the document for the socioeconomic development of my country.

Madame President,

11. As nuclear security continues to be an important global instrument for peace and stability of the World, Nigeria notes the planned International Conference on Nuclear Security (ICONS) in May 2024. We believe that this Conference, as with the previous three (3) ICONS, will provide a platform for senior government officials, decision makers and nuclear security experts to exchange ideas and share best practices for the promotion of international partnership and confidence building. My country looks forward to this conference to build on the already existing partnerships we have with some countries in this field.

Madame President,

12. On liabilities to the IAEA, I want to assure the Director – General that, Nigeria is in the process of addressing the issue of outstanding assessed contribution.

13. With this, my delegation endorses the 2022 report for the consideration of the General conference.

14. I thank you for your kind attention.