

**STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**AT THE  
67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**By  
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**VIENNA – AUSTRIA  
(25 -29 SEPTEMBER 2023)**

**Your Excellency the Ambassador, President of the General Conference,**

**Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,**

**Your Excellencies and Highnesses,**

**First of all, I am delighted to be here with you today at this significant international event that highlights the remarkable role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in promoting global cooperation to harness atomic energy for the sake of global development and peace.**

**I would like to congratulate Her Excellency the ambassador for chairing the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference and wishing her success. I am fully confident that our collective collaboration will achieve the desired outcomes for this conference, emphasizing the cooperation of my country's delegation to help realize them.**

**Your Excellency the President**

**I would like to begin by expressing my sincere congratulations to Mr. Rafael Grossi on his re-election as Director General for a second term, unanimously supported by all Member States. This outcome reflects the international community's immense trust in his leadership and the remarkable and outstanding role he played during his first term, especially amidst the challenging circumstances faced by the IAEA, including Covid-19 pandemic and the global events unfolding before us.**

## **Your Excellency the President**

**The Kingdom is committed to its national policy for atomic energy, which ensures the highest standards of transparency and reliability, and the highest levels of safety. The Kingdom recognizes the positive contribution of nuclear energy to energy security, as well as its social, and economic benefits. Therefore, the Kingdom is working to develop peaceful uses for nuclear energy across various fields through close cooperation with the Agency. This includes the Saudi National Atomic Energy Project and its components, including the project of building the first nuclear energy power plant in the Kingdom, which will help meet the sustainable development requirements as outlined in the Saudi Vision 2030, according to both local requirements and international commitments.**

**In this regard, the Kingdom has decided recently to rescind the Small Quantities Protocol and implement the full Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. The Kingdom is working, within the framework of its national ecosystem, to establish the necessary mechanisms for this full implementation, following best international practices and experiences. The Kingdom is also working closely with the Agency to leverage its expertise and the advisory services it provides in the field of implementing safeguards to develop the national infrastructure and human capabilities required to support this transition.**

**We are looking forward to operating a regional cooperation center with the Agency to develop human capabilities in the areas of preparedness and response to radiological and nuclear emergencies, as well as other**

**regulatory aspects at national, regional, and international levels.**

**In this regard, I would like to convey the appreciation of the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the efforts of the Agency and its employees, and the outstanding initiatives the Agency has launched to harness nuclear technology for peaceful uses and find solutions to global challenges in a safe environment free from nuclear threats.**

**The Kingdom is pleased to announce at this Conference its support for the “Rays of Hope” Initiative launched by the Agency with \$2.5 million to help save lives and address the burden of cancer diseases using nuclear techniques. This comes as an extension of the Kingdom’s continued support for the Agency’s efforts and distinguished initiatives to serve humanity.**

**I also would like to congratulate the IAEA and its member states on the upcoming launch of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre in Seibersdorf, scheduled to be operational in October of this year. The Kingdom took the initiative in establishing this center and funding it with the cooperation of other countries. We hope this center will serve as a key enabler for the Agency in strengthening the capabilities of all member states in many areas of nuclear security and become a reference center for nuclear security.**

**On promoting women’s role in nuclear technology, we’d like to thank the Director General of the IAEA for launching the Lise Meitner Programme, aimed at enhancing the**

women's leadership role in nuclear energy, in which the Kingdom had took a part during its first cycle.

**Your Excellency the President**

**The Kingdom emphasizes the importance of concerted international efforts to implement the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, ensuring its universal adherence. It also affirms the significance of countering nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In this regard, we reaffirm the importance of fully implementing Resolution 1995, which aims to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.**

**The Kingdom commends the Agency's role in maintaining its neutrality and its outstanding efforts in dealing with non-proliferation issues by maintaining its safeguards and verification responsibilities under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with member states. The Kingdom also commends the Agency's efforts in ensuring that these activities represent important principles and contribute effectively to the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and affirms its inherent right to benefit from peaceful nuclear technology including the nuclear fuel cycle, and to benefit from its natural resources of uranium ores commercially, in accordance with relevant international treaties and agreements.**

**The Kingdom also welcomes the efforts of the Agency and the General Director at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in light of the current situation in Ukraine. We appreciate their important role in maintaining nuclear security and safety through continuous visits and the**

**establishment of permanent expert missions from the Agency to nuclear facilities in Ukraine.**

**Your Excellency the President**

**I conclude by stressing that the Kingdom renews its support to the Agency to harness nuclear technology for humanity. The Kingdom calls on the International Community to cooperate actively in developing and addressing firmly all attempts of non-peaceful and unsafe uses of the nuclear technologies.**

**Thank you, your Excellency the President and the distinguished guests. I hope that the work of this Conference will be crowned with success.**

**May peace, mercy and the blessings of God be upon you.**