



NIGERIA'S STATEMENT

BY

AMBASSADOR VIVIAN OKEKE

AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGERIA TO THE IAEA

AT THE

**INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY
ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA) OF THE ORGANISATION
FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) AND HOSTED BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES IN ABU DHABI;
OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 1, 2017**

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President of the Conference

1. Please, permit me on behalf of the Nigerian delegation, to join previous speakers in complimenting the International Atomic Energy Agency, Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Government and good people of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this very important International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, here in the opulent city of Abu Dhabi. Also, I wish to also congratulate you, Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Conference and I am without doubt that under your able leadership, conference proceedings would be steered to a successful conclusion.

2. Mr. President, the relevance of this year's conference theme is made most significant when situated against the backdrop of what the host government has achieved in the recent past. With a record construction time and soon-to-be

commissioned reactor unit-1 of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant here in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirate has thrown a daunting challenge, particularly to oil-rich and developing economies like Nigeria, and to the world in general that the transition from a fossil-based economy to an affordable, clean and reliable green economy is attainable.

3. Mr. President, as you are aware, issues of global warming and climate change are the cornerstone on which most global and national energy policies are now being formulated. This is with a view to ensuring that the implementation of mitigation strategies aimed at a decarbonised electricity generation regime is attained. It is in recognition of this, and the need to tackle the perennial problem of electricity shortage against an ever-steep demand that informed Nigeria government's decision to broaden the country's future energy mix beyond the conventional sources of hydro, oil and gas to include renewables and nuclear energy in its National Energy Policy.

4. Mr. President, the need to deploy nuclear energy for electricity generation is a key priority area for the Nigerian government and it is well articulated in our 2030:30:30 vision document titled '*NIGERIA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL; Achieving Incremental and Uninterrupted Power*'. Therefore, in 2030 Nigeria expects to achieve 30% of unconditional CO₂ emissions reduction with 30% of electricity generation from cleaner energy sources like renewable and nuclear power. This demonstrates our national obligation and commitment to the Paris Climate Change Accord, for a sustainable energy system that will not compromise the environment.

5. On its part, Nigeria in its Nuclear Power programming, has since the last Ministerial Conference in 2013 made inspiring progress. In June 2015, Nigeria hosted both the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) for Phase II and the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) Missions by the IAEA. An INIR Mission Report on the IAEA's findings, suggestions and recommendations was presented to the Government of Nigeria in November 2015. Consequently, an Integrated Work Plan (IWP) was produced in December 2016 by NAEC and NNRA in collaboration with the IAEA and this is currently being implemented to address the recommendations in the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review Mission Report.

6. To ensure that nuclear science and technology deployment is done in the most transparent manner in order to ensure safety, Nigeria invited the IAEA to undertake an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission in July 2017. We are eagerly awaiting the outcome of this Mission and will ensure the implementation of its recommendations and suggestions just as we are doing for the report of the INIR Mission.

7. On human capital development, specific emphasis is placed on building capacity at the national level to ensure that Nigeria can train the needed human resources locally. This has necessitated the networking of national institutions and the building of necessary educational and training infrastructure. In addition, there are presently on-going scholarships for staff of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) and the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) both at the MSc and PhD levels in requisite nuclear science, technology and engineering disciplines from a number of countries either on a bilateral basis or through the IAEA to build a competent faculty for the country.

8. In addition, Nigeria has signed Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with the Russian Federation on the peaceful applications of atomic energy (2009); Design, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of NPP (2012) and on the construction and operation of Multi-Purpose Research Reactor (2016). We shall on the sidelines of this Conference be signing two Project Development Agreements for the Implementation of these IGAs. It is my pleasure to inform this august assembly that Nigeria is open to other countries with matured and proven nuclear technology who are willing to partner with us.

9. In concluding, Mr. President, permit me once again to commend the IAEA for the pivotal role it has and would continue to play to ensure that Member States have unfettered access to nuclear science and technology for their socio-economic development within the ambit of the three cardinal objectives of *safety, security and safeguards* of people, environment, nuclear materials and facilities.

10. Thank you.