



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT BY
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MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
DURING THE
INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER IN
THE 21ST CENTURY
30TH OCTOBER – 01ST NOVEMBER 2017
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I congratulate you on your assumption of the Presidency of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century.
2. I commend the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this important conference. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of this event; the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the excellent arrangements.
3. This conference is indeed very important for it coincides with the commissioning of a nuclear power plant in a new-comer country. I am sure there are a number of lessons to be drawn from the implementation of Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.
4. Undoubtedly the nuclear power programmes of Member States participating in this conference are at different levels; some are introducing whereas others are maintaining or expanding their nuclear power programmes. However, there are cross-cutting issues which are shared by all and therefore this forum serves as a platform to share experiences to improve the nuclear industry.

Mr. President,

5. My Government prioritises the energy sector as a primary growth enabler to attain the national development agenda by 2040. Therefore, as diversification plan to meet the ever growing electricity demand, my government continues to develop more renewable resources such as hydro, solar and geothermal as well as increase the share of electricity generation using indigenous petroleum resources. Considering the national development target, generation from renewables and available fossil resources will not be sufficient to drive the economy. Therefore, nuclear power has an important role in meeting future electricity deficit.

6. Studies conducted within the energy sector in Uganda have indicated that nuclear power will have a role to play in the future electricity generation mix. Therefore, the Government of Uganda continues to prepare for the introduction of nuclear power as part of the diversification strategy for meeting future electricity needs for social economic development. My Government applauds the Agency for its contribution towards the Pre-feasibility Studies for Launching the First Nuclear Power Plant in Uganda.

7. With nuclear power prospects and the significant rise of atomic energy applications, Uganda reaffirms her commitment towards strengthening the national infrastructure for nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards. We welcome Agency's assistance towards this end.

8. Uganda welcomes the Agency's technical advice through the various review missions such as the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review and Integrated Regulatory Review Services. My country is preparing to receive the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review in 2019.

Mr President,

9. I wish to applaud the Agency for its international coordination role in enhancing nuclear safety, security, and for monitoring and safeguarding nuclear material to ensure that peaceful nuclear endeavours do not result in nuclear terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation. Uganda believes that maintaining a sound global nuclear safety and security regime will facilitate the nuclear renaissance.
10. Uganda welcomes all efforts made by Member states to use nuclear power for the improvement of the well-being of humanity in an environmentally sustainable manner. Uganda will continue to cooperate with those working towards enhancing nuclear safety, security and safeguards.
11. I thank you, Mr President.