

THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

**STATEMENT TO THE 61st REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC AGENCY, 18TH -
22TH SEPTEMBER, 2017,**

BY

H.E. Dr.Ing.Getahun Mekuria Kuma

MINISTER

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

18th of September 2017

AUSTRIA, VIENNA

Madam President, Congratulation on your Election as President of the 61st IAEA General Conference

Mr. Amano, Congratulation on your re-election as DG of IAEA for the 3rd Term

And I also would like to Welcome Grenada as the new Member of the IAEA Family

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ethiopia is executing wide ranging and stretched plans to put itself among the middle income countries of the world by 2025 by realizing double digit economic growth for the last 13 years in a row.

It has joined the few countries of the world with the fastest economic growth. The government has widely involved the public in the implementation of the second phase of the Growth and Transformation plan (GTP II) that started in 2016 that is expected to ensure double digit growth for the five years period till 2020.

It is recognized that the utilization of appropriate Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to address its socio-economic problems is the driving engine to speed up the growth and prosperity of the nation. In particular, the role of the peaceful applications of Nuclear Science and Technology (NS&T) and its associated methods over the years has proved to be very important in solving various developmental problems in key socio-economic sectors; such as agriculture and food security, human health, water resource management, environment, radiation protection and industry.

In agriculture sector, Ethiopia attaches high importance and highly appreciated the sustained support render to Southern Ethiopian Tsetse fly Eradication Project (STEP) that aims to eradicate Tsetse fly from the Southern Rift Valley of Ethiopia using sterile Insect technique (SIT) as part of an area wide integrated pest program nearly two decades ago. Enhanced and sustainable use of disease control technologies (Chemotherapy, and vector control and eradication techniques) with active participation of communities will provide sustainable tsetse free areas and new opportunities for improved crop and livestock farming.

Madam President,

Excellencies,

I wish to Commend the agency for a well thought of selecting the theme for this year's IAEA Scientific Forum - **Nuclear Techniques in Human Health: Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment** – will bring together experts to showcase how nuclear techniques are used to improve human health, boost quality of life and prosperity. It is the clear demonstration of the Agency alignment to the Sustainable development Agenda.

Currently the existing nuclear medicine and radiotherapy service in the Capital Addis Ababa is being expanded to at least Six Teaching Hospitals outside Addis Ababa. The civil construction of the buildings is nearing completion. In addition, the required human resource is under development and the essential facilities are under procurement through the Technical support of the Agency.

Hence, it is envisaged that some of these centers will be functional to provide the expected patient services in the near future. Besides, the Addis Ababa Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine centers have started showing encouraging progresses by starting postgraduate

programs locally with the intention of meeting the current and future demands of the Human Resource.

Madam President

Excellencies

I , firmly believe and confident more than ever that the fundamental importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in tackling wide range of problems facing Africa is beyond dispute. It is a matter of necessity rather than choice that investment in Africa's Science capabilities is essential to the successful use of technology and innovation, and is fundamental to sound policy making, good governance and industrial development

My country Ethiopia strongly seeks the continued support of the IAEA and our development partners on the following Areas,

1. Use of Nuclear Technologies for Agriculture and Food Security
2. Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy in the Health Areas
3. Isotope Hydrology to assess the potential of Ethiopia's Ground Water Resources and its Management
4. Use of Nuclear Technologies for the Industry
5. Use of Nuclear Technologies for Research and Development

Like most African countries Ethiopia is also vulnerable to climate change and hence the country will use any available Technology for its Economic Development and to ensuring the SDG.

As current Member of the UN Security Council and President of the UN Security Council for this September, my country Ethiopia strongly condemns weaponization of the Nuclear Technology in any form and level.

In the recent weeks, we have witnessed the situation surrounding the DPRK is becoming progressively complex and increasingly worrying not only for the Korean Peninsula, but also for global peace and security. The latest nuclear test by the DPRK is indeed a dangerous escalation with potentially catastrophic consequences. We believe that the international community should use all diplomatic and political solutions at its disposal to address this issue which has a far reaching implication for peace and security in the Korean peninsula and beyond.

Thank you

