



**61ST ANNUAL REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE:
18TH TO 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2017, VIENNA**

**STATEMENT OF GHANA DELIVERED BY PROF. KWABENA
FRIMPONG BOATENG,**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION ON MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

Mr. President,

**Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,
Excellencies,**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ghana delegation joins other speakers, to warmly congratulate you on your election as President of the 61st Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. We also congratulate other members of your bureau on their election. Your Bureau can count on the full support and cooperation of the Ghana delegation towards the successful conclusion of this session. We also congratulate and welcome the people of Grenada on becoming a Member State of the IAEA. Ghana congratulates the Director-General, Mr. Yukiya Amano, on his re-election to the third term of office.

Ghana is undertaking various activities regarding the nuclear infrastructure development. The country is working to ensure the

delivery of a sustainable nuclear energy program in a safe, secure and efficient manner.

It is worth mentioning that the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission was successfully conducted from 16–23 January this year. This was in response to Ghana's request to the IAEA to carry out a Phase 1 INIR Mission in 2016. The final INIR mission report was submitted to the Government of Ghana on 24th May, 2017 by a two member delegation from the IAEA led by Mr. Mikhail Chudakov, the Deputy Director General and Mr. Anthony Kenneth Stott, Head of Department of Nuclear Energy. The report has since been published at the IAEA website. Ghana assures the international community we will fully address all the recommendations and suggestions provided in the INIR report.

Mr. President,

With the help of the Government of the United States of America, through the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), Ghana has successfully completed the conversion of its research reactor from the use of high enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel and has also repatriated the HEU fuel successfully at 21:27 GMT on Monday 28th August 2017 (05:27 Chinese local time on Tuesday 29th August 2017) to China in line with the Purchase and Sales Agreement (PSA) that Ghana signed with China and the International Atomic Energy Agency signed in 1992.

Mr. President

At the request of the Government of Ghana to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conduct an Occupational Radiation Protection Appraisal Services (ORPAS) mission, the Agency organized the ORPAS in the Republic of Ghana from 5-9 December 2016 with a Team of three international experts. The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) acted as the national contact point for the mission. The Team submitted its final report to the Government of the Republic of Ghana in July, 2017. Ghana will work to see to the implementation of the recommendations made in the report.

Mr. President,

The Government of Ghana, as part of its long term management strategy for disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS), has opted for the IAEA developed Borehole Disposal System (BDS) as an end-point management option. The BDS is being implemented with the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) as the lead implementing institution. The project is being carried out with financial and technical assistance from the IAEA through Technical Cooperation (TC) and donor support from the Canadian Government.

Mr. President,

One of the major constraints limiting food and animal production in Ghana is the emerging pests and diseases due to climate change and other ecological factors.

The nuclear based sterile insect technique (SIT) has been successfully used to sterilize males of insects using gamma radiation.

There are ongoing SIT studies for the control of fruit flies, Fall Army Worms and the Anopheles Mosquito.

Again GAEC and CSIR are undertaking mutation breeding project on oil palm with the aim of developing dwarf or semi mutants with high fruit and oil yield. The project also aims at developing mutants resistant to Fusarium wilt and drought.

Mr. President,

Ghana continues to provide support for the Nuclear Education and Training at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS), which is an IAEA African Regional Designated Centre (RDC) for Professional Training and Higher Education in Nuclear Science and Technology, Radiation Protection and Medical Physics Education. Ghana has recently expanded the physical infrastructure at the School. These facilities are expected to help increase students' admissions and to provide congenial environment for training of scientists and engineers in nuclear science and technology. Ghana remains grateful to the IAEA for the opportunity to implement the Human Resource

Development (HRD) initiatives and Nuclear Knowledge Management (NKM) programme at the School.

It is gratifying to note that several African countries have benefitted from the IAEA fellowships through the Postgraduate Certificate Course and Master of Philosophy programmes of the School. These human resource development initiatives continue to aid Member States in the AFRA region to build capacity in the nuclear industry.

Mr. President,

The Ghana Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) has been admitted as Active Recipient of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF). The NRA is scheduled to meet with RCF officers to identify areas of cooperation and assistance in the coming years.

The NRA has just concluded arrangements with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US-NRC) for exchange of Technical Information and cooperation in Nuclear Safety matters.

Mr. President,

Ghana participated in the 6th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) during which challenges as well as areas of

good performance were identified. Ghana is working hard to satisfy all the conditions required for nuclear safety.

Mr. President,

I would like to conclude by assuring you of Ghana's continuous support to the Agency in the discharge of its mandate.

I thank you.