



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT BY
THE HEAD OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION,
HON. ENG. IRENE MULONI,
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
DURING THE 61ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 18TH – 22ND, 2017
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, VIENNA AUSTRIA**

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Uganda and my delegation, I join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 61st Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. My delegation assures you and the members of your bureau support and cooperation in discharging your duty.

My delegation warmly welcomes Grenada as a new Member State of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Madam President,

I seize the opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Yukiya Amano for his well deserving reappointment as the IAEA Director General, and wish to commend him and the Secretariat for upholding the Agency's core mandate of ***“seeking to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.”***

My delegation acknowledges and appreciates the Agency for its untiring efforts in helping Member States use nuclear science and technology to facilitate, among others; food security, sustainable agriculture, human health, sustainable energy development and water resources management. Undoubtedly, cooperation with the Agency in these areas will greatly contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam President,

This year marks the 50th anniversary since Uganda became a Member State of the Agency. The partnership with the Agency through the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme and other Agency supported activities has been beneficial in terms of human resources development and acquisition of specialised equipment across the various sectors of Government.

I take this opportunity to express my Government's appreciation to the Director General and the Agency Secretariat for the prompt response and continuous support towards the restoration of radiotherapy services in the wake of the breakdown of the Cobalt-60 machine. The Agency played a central role in the procurement of the new Cobalt-60 radiotherapy machine. Uganda welcomes the Agency's assistance in the expansion of radiotherapy services in my country.

Madam President

In July this year, the Government of Uganda hosted the AFRA 28th Technical Working Group Meeting in Kampala. Allow me, Madam President to reiterate my Government's appreciation to the AFRA Member States for giving Uganda the opportunity to host this important meeting. I take this opportunity to reaffirm Uganda's commitment to efficiently discharge the duty of AFRA chairmanship.

Madam President,

In line with national development agenda, 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 Prefeasibility Studies for Launching the First Nuclear Power Plant in Uganda.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm my Government's commitment towards nuclear power infrastructure development. We welcome the Agency's technical advice through the various review missions such as the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review and Integrated Regulatory Review Services. These among others provide a forum for assessing progress on key milestones.

Madam President,

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.

Uganda believes that development cannot be sustained without peace and security. We wish therefore to applaud the Agency for its international coordination role in enhancing nuclear security regime and for monitoring and safeguarding nuclear material to ensure that peaceful nuclear endeavours do not result in nuclear terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation.

In conclusion, we look forward to a stronger partnership with the Agency in furtherance of “***Atoms for Peace and Development***”. I wish to once again thank Ambassador Yukiya Amano, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Secretariat for their contribution towards helping Member States maximise the use of nuclear science and technology for socio wellbeing of humanity.

I thank you, Madam President.