



**STATEMENT AT THE 59TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
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VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**DELIVERED BY
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TO THE IAEA**

**Mr. President,
Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA,
Hon. Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Kenya and my delegation, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 59th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We wish to thank the Director General for his opening remarks and articulation of the Agency's achievements across all its Major Programmes.

My delegation welcomes Antigua, Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan as new Member States of the Agency.

Kenya supports the important work of the IAEA and is strongly committed to the Agency's goal of ensuring the safe, secure, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy including its integral verification mandate to ensure that all nuclear material and facilities all over the world are used exclusively for peaceful purposes only.

Mr. President,

The Technical Cooperation Programme of the Agency is the main statutory vehicle through which the Agency promotes the peaceful uses of nuclear energy around the world. In this regard, Kenya strongly supports the promotional activities of the Agency delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The benefits of the peaceful application of nuclear energy contribute to socio-economic development of Member States and further contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. The technical cooperation programs are the real window through which developing countries in particular find a tangible beneficial entry into the Agency. They also provide developing countries with a true sense of stakeholder and ownership in the Agency.

Kenya has long-standing ties with the IAEA dating back to 1965 in such areas of cooperation as human health, food and agriculture, livestock production, water resources management, industrial development, environmental management and nuclear energy development.

We look forward to renewed cooperation with the Agency in the Post-2015 development agenda and as the country implements **Vision 2030**, the national development blueprint that aims to transform Kenya into a middle income economy by the year 2030.

Kenya is an active member of the **African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA)**. AFRA has made a positive socio-economic impact in the country, through Kenya's participation in the regional technical cooperation projects, contributing to enhancing our human resource capacity in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly appreciates the participation of the Agency in the **9th Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostrate Cancer in Africa Conference** held in Nairobi, Kenya from 19 to 21 July 2015. The Conference theme was *"Investing to Save Lives: Role of Public Private Sector Partnerships"*

and was organized by the Forum of African First Ladies together with the Princess Nikky Onyeri Breast Cancer Foundation.

The Conference was opened by H.E Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and brought African First Ladies and over 3000 dignitaries and delegates from Government, private sector, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, cancer care providers and advocates from the continent.

Her Excellency, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Mrs. Margaret Kenyatta hosted the Conference which was instrumental in raising and increasing awareness about the heavy burden of the cancer problem in Africa, a situation made worse due to the high cost of machines, drugs and vaccines which are not accessible to many cancer victims in Africa.

The **9th Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostrate Cancer in Africa Conference** adopted a four point agenda dubbed the “Nairobi Declaration.” This called for the development, strengthening and implementation of evidence-based health policies through integrated health systems. The Conference underlined the need for continued but innovative public private partnerships in ensuring accelerating access to quality health services. Such partnerships should be aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, prevention, early detection, treatment, care and palliative care for cervical, breast and prostrate cancer in Africa.

Mr. President,

Kenya welcomes the continued focus of the Agency in the area of human health so as to enhance Member States capabilities to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases through the application of nuclear techniques. My delegation appreciates the valued partnership with the Agency in the area

of early detection, control and management of cancer in Kenya including the training of Kenya's health care professionals. With the support of the Agency, Kenya continues to strengthen and expand its capacity and facilities for radiotherapy and nuclear medicine particularly in the supply of equipment.

My delegation in particular appreciates the Agency's support in upgrading the Kenyatta National Hospital Cancer Centre and the setting up of a Cancer Centre at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret. Through the Agency's support, Kenya plans to establish training programs in the country in the areas of medical physicists, radiation oncologists and oncology nurses to support the national cancer control program.

Mr. President,

Kenya recognizes the importance of energy security for sustainable development. We applaud the role played by the Agency in promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy and establishing safety standards and security guidance. We also commend the Agency in promoting international cooperation including its efforts to strengthen global nuclear safety, nuclear security and safeguards.

Nuclear power remains a viable option for many developing countries including Kenya so as to achieve energy security. The urge for the contribution from nuclear power has been recognized by the Government of Kenya, resulting in the inclusion of nuclear power in the country's energy strategy.

Kenya commends the Agency for the valuable support it continues to provide in human resource capacity building and expert missions so as to help develop the country's infrastructure to support the nuclear power programme. Such support has been extended through the Agency's

Technical Cooperation Programme in collaboration with various partners such as under the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), among others.

Mr. President,

In this respect, I thank the Agency for successfully conducting a **Phase One Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) Mission** to Kenya. The INIR Mission took place in August 2015. The Mission has provided expert advice and independent assessment on progress in establishing the national nuclear power infrastructure. The outcome will make significant contribution to the country's progress in the development of the nuclear power infrastructure and in preparation of Phase II activities. I am happy to note that the INIR Mission to Kenya identified four (4) good practices that may benefit other countries in the First Phase of their nuclear power programmes.

In addition, the Agency conducted an **Emergency Preparedness and Review (EPREV) Mission** to Kenya in March 2015. The EPREV Mission compared existing arrangements in the country with the relevant IAEA Safety Standards and reviewed Kenya's emergency preparedness and response arrangements and capabilities especially in light of Kenya's proposed nuclear power programme. The findings of the EPREV Mission will bring about improvements in Kenya's emergency preparedness and response arrangements.

Mr. President,

The Agency has consistently supported Kenya's regulatory infrastructure for radiological sources through capacity building and supply of equipment to the Radiation Protection Board. In this regard, we appreciate the Agency's commitment and look forward to the **Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission** to Kenya scheduled for July 2016.

Kenya is in the process of reviewing its legal and regulatory framework to support the nuclear power programme. It is the objective of the Government to build a strong and effective regulatory framework. Therefore, comprehensive nuclear legislation that establishes a regulatory body with independent authority over nuclear and radiation safety, security and safeguards is being developed with the support and technical advice of the Agency.

I am happy to say that, with the assistance of the Agency, the First Phase of the Central Radioactive Waste Processing Facility (CRWPF) was completed and handed over to the Radiation Protection Board. This will greatly assist the country in the effective management of radioactive materials and sources.

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the collaboration between the Government of Kenya and the Agency in setting up a Radiotracer Measurement Laboratory. The Laboratory was equipped with radiotracer flow rig equipment from the Agency.

Kenya has also established a Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL), managed by the Kenya Bureau of Standards. The laboratory has been recognized by the IAEA SSDL Network. The accomplishments of the laboratory have been tremendous. Kenya looks forward to further collaboration with the Agency in capacity building and equipping of the proposed Radiotherapy Standards Laboratory.

A Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) laboratory has also been established under the Kenya Bureau of Standards through a National Technical Cooperation project. The laboratory currently provides variant testing services using various methodologies. The NDT lab has joined the African

Federation for Non-Destructive Testing (AFNDT), which promotes NDT activities within the region.

Mr. President,

My delegation further commends the Agency's Radioisotope Production and Radiation Technology programme. The Programme enhances the expertise and capability of Member States in utilizing the methodologies for radiation processing, compositional analysis and industrial applications of radioisotope techniques to meet national needs as well as to assimilate new developments for improving industrial process efficiency and safety, development and characterization of value-added products.

Through the support of the Agency, capacity building in this area has been enhanced through a technical cooperation project that has established an NDT laboratory at the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology at the University of Nairobi. This has enabled the University to integrate NDT methods in its engineering curricula.

In this respect, Kenya appreciates the Agency's support in the procurement of five (5) sets of basic NDT equipment for training and research. Further, the Agency has provided capacity building opportunities such as workshops, fellowships, and scientific visits. IAEA expert missions and continual reviews have also improved project implementation.

Mr. President,

In the food and agriculture sector in Kenya, nuclear and isotopic techniques have been applied with a focus on improving soil productivity and water use efficiency in both cropping and livestock sectors. This is with the aim of ensuring sustainable production systems against the impact of climate change and variability on water scarcity, soil degradation and potential salinization.

In addition, collaboration between Kenya and the Agency continues through the use of nuclear technologies to optimize use of solar pumping for small scale irrigation, developing efficient irrigation technologies, integrated soil fertility management options and use of information communication technologies (ICT) to optimize water and nutrient management especially in irrigated systems.

My delegation is pleased to report on Kenya's successful training programs at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) in collaboration with the Agency that have hosted fifteen (15) fellows from eight (8) African countries for two (2) to three (3) month fellowships in soil nutrient and water management.

Mr. President,

Kenya welcomes the cooperation that the Agency continues to have with the African Union-Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) in raising awareness regarding tsetse flies and the resultant trypanosomiasis disease problem and working towards the eradication of tsetse flies and the disease by creating tsetse free zones in Africa through the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) while ensuring that reclaimed land areas are economically exploited for socio-economic development. This has had positive impact in affected African countries. In this regard, Kenya encourages the Agency to continue its capacity building initiatives and operational assistance to field project activities at the national and regional levels.

My delegation welcomes the support of the Agency in assisting Kenyans acquire requisite skills in tsetse management, population genetics, molecular diagnosis and integration of GIS to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis database management. This facilitates in the implementation of the National Livestock Policy in which tsetse and

trypanosomiasis have been identified as priority issues as the freeing of large infested areas in the country is crucial for the achievement of Kenya **Vision 2030** disease free zones. These initiatives contribute to enhanced livestock productivity and positively impact on the livelihoods and economic wellbeing of livestock keepers as they free tsetse infested areas for livestock development and introduction of improved livestock.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by thanking the Agency for its sustained commitment and support to Kenya in the promotion of peaceful uses and applications of nuclear energy for sustainable development. We commend all the staff of the IAEA, whose dedication and hard work continues to strengthen the cooperation between the Agency and its Member States which in turn contributes to enhanced service delivery by Governments.

I wish the 59th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference all the success in its work.

I Thank You.