

STATEMENT BY HON. PATRICIA APPIAGYEI, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA AT THE IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 28-30 NOVEMBER 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Excellences,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, the world economy is more interlinked than ever. Globalisation is at its peak.

In my opinion the overall benefits of nuclear technology cannot be overstated. The

Ghana Atomic Energy Commission is pleased to have been a partner to the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the pursuit of peaceful application

of nuclear technology for development.

Let me give a couple of examples:

In the area of food and agriculture, Ghana has produced disease carotene yellow fresh cassava mutants with high provitamin A and mutants of cherry tomato for farmers.

Ghana as a developing country continues to have serious challenges in the post-harvest management. It is estimated that losses of food could be in the range of 30-50%, which present a serious threat to smallholder farmers and exporters.

Currently, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, through the Gamma irradiation facility, provides services for post-harvest management and medical sectors of the Ghana economy.

Sustainable development depends on the quality and the safety of industrial materials, machinery, equipment and processes. With regards to this, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission is in collaboration with the Oil and Mining companies in Ghana for quality assurance on their welds and Machinery both local and international market. The commission has introduced a short course in Non Destructive Testing for industry players.

Health research is carried out in diagnostic radiology and radiotherapy to improve cancer treatment outcomes. Nuclear techniques are being applied in reducing obesity and related health risk. Additionally, nutrition intervention programmes aimed at vulnerable groups such as HIV/AIDS patients, children, pregnant and lactating mothers, are being developed and monitored.

The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, in collaboration with the Water Resources Commission (WRC) and Water Research Institute (WRI) of Ghana, has undertaken research in both surface and ground water resources, employing isotopic techniques.

Pollution zones have been identified, water quality has been assessed, ground water flow patterns have been determined, and ground water recharge estimated.

With the support of the IAEA, the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission has established the Isotope Hydrology Laboratory since the late 2010, to address water challenges in Ghana. The laboratory has been used to provide services to support Technical Co-operation (TC) projects, Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) as well as National projects on water resources assessment using isotopes techniques.

The Scientific basis for preparation of a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to establish legal, policy and institutional framework for multi-partite management and rational use of shared aquifers has been established. Not only does the ocean regulate the climate, it is also crucial to our food supply, health, economy, and our future. The ocean is closely linked to the climate in many respects. Ocean acidification is another effect of global warming.

Mr Chairman, My Government is open to any opportunities to explore further possibilities of future cooperation between IAEA and other development partners.

I Thank you

