



**63RD ANNUAL REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE:
16TH – 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2019, VIENNA**

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. PROF. KWABENA
FRIMPONG-BOATENG – MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT THE 63RD REGULAR
SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA,
AUSTRIA FROM 16TH – 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2019**

Mr. President,

Ag. Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ghana delegation joins other speakers, to warmly congratulate you and your Bureau on your election to lead this session. We commend you and your Bureau for the professional conduct of this meeting so far, and assure you of our full support and cooperation. My delegation congratulates the Agency for the sixty-three years of effective cooperation.

Mr. President,

Allow me to once again express to you and the entire IAEA fraternity the condolences of the President and People of the Republic of Ghana on the passing of Director-General Mr. Yukiya Amano in July of this year. Mr. Amano's immense contribution to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies for development, including in particular his advocacy for nuclear non-proliferation will be remembered by Ghana for many years to come.

Mr. President,

Ghana appreciates the collaboration with the IAEA on human resource development, and on the training of nuclear scientists and engineers from Ghana and Africa through the Ghana School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences. In 2018, Ghana through the School renewed the Practical Arrangements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for another three (3) years, expiring in 2021. The focus of this arrangement is to support education, training and outreach in the nuclear field, including e-learning capabilities and outreach programmes to secondary schools.

In the area of nuclear application for good health and nutrition, Ghana commissioned two laboratories to be used for research in the areas of Nutrition, and Infectious Agents of Diseases this year.

Also, through the support of the IAEA, tGhana secured funds in 2010 for the expansion of the two Radiotherapy Centres in Accra and Kumasi. At present, the Linear Accelerator (LINAC) in Accra has been commissioned and in full operation while the one in Kumasi is currently undergoing commissioning.

Mr. President,

The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) through Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI) in collaboration with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana developed two mutant cassava varieties which have been recommended for release by the National Varietal Release Technical Committee to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA). The Institute has also developed putative mutants of cassava and yam which are going through multilocational trials prior to release in 2020.

The Institute has developed efficient protocol for *in vitro* mutation induction of taro. Currently, the *in vitro* plantlets have been sent to Siebersdorf, here in Austria for irradiation to determine the optimal dose for mutant induction. The objective is to develop mutants of taro resistant to Phytophthora, a fungal disease.

Mr. President

The Government of Ghana has provided financial support to the Ghana Nuclear Power Programme Organisation (GNPPO) to enable

it complete its Phase1 work. A follow-up Phase 1 INIR mission is scheduled for 21 – 24 October, 2019. Thus, the GNPPPO anticipates to submit to the Government a comprehensive report on the Phase 1 programme by end of November 2019. In preparation for Phase 2, Nuclear Power Ghana (a nuclear utility company) has been established by the Government.

The proposed site for the Borehole Disposal concept has been fully characterized to demonstrate its suitability. The draft safety case, Post Closure Safety Assessment (PCSA) and Borehole Disposal System (BDS) engineering design document for implementation of the BDS have been reviewed by IAEA consultants who have identified areas which require improvement in order to fulfill the relevant requirements for safety. From 6-10 of May this year, a review meeting was organized by the IAEA at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna to review the draft Safety Case. Comments from the review meeting are currently being incorporated into the document.

License application for construction of the borehole is being prepared for submission. The construction of Ghana's first borehole for disposal of Disused Sealed Sources is expected to be carried out by the end of 2019 after going through the regulatory process to obtain the license.

Mr. President,

The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) of Ghana is building the competency of its workforce through training, workshops, fellowships

and On-the-Job training with support from the IAEA, and through bilateral partners such as the United States' NRC, CNSC, and the EU's INSC. In particular, as a member of the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF), the European Commission's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) has recently awarded a 1.2 million Euros technical support contract for strengthening NRA's regulatory oversight infrastructure, as the nuclear power programme moves into Phase 2.

The NRA is collaborating with other members of the GNPPO to attract the right caliber of talent to enhance its regulatory activities. This is being conducted in line with the Ghana Nuclear Regulatory Authority's Human Resource Development Plan, which is based on the national GNPPO's Human Resource Development Plan.

Mr. President,

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

I thank you.