



**THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO STATEMENT BY THE
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH AT THE 63RD
REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

17 SEPTEMBER, 2019

Madam President of the General Conference

**Acting Director General of International Atomic Energy
Agency, Mr. Cornel Feruta**

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I earnestly convey congratulatory messages from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho on your election as the president for the 63rd International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference, together with the other members of the Bureau. The Kingdom of Lesotho is also appreciative of the lasting legacy of the late Director General Yukiya Amano. The Kingdom of Lesotho has learned with utter dismay and shock the untimely passing of the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Ms Bavelile Hlongwa and wishes to pass her deepest condolences to the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

Madam President,

Please be assured of my delegation's fervent support to you and the Conference secretariat. We rally behind you towards a successful conference epitomized by fruitful deliberations and realistic outcomes.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho has been a member of the Agency for a decade. The ten years have seen the Country grow from strength to strength in the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology. The country has also benefited tremendously through the provision of equipment under various projects in the fields of Agriculture, Water Management to name but a few.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho remains fully committed to adhering to the Agency's call for adherence to the Nuclear Security architecture and this is signified by frequent participation in various Nuclear Security trainings and courses as well as the assistance received from the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan. (INSSP). The Kingdom of Lesotho has recently made a commitment to join the Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) and communication in this regard shall be made to the Agency in due course.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho relishes participation in the 2020-2021 cycle under which five projects have been cleared by the Agency to enter the design phase. The five projects cover areas of Nutrition, Agriculture (Livestock and Crops), Human Health and Regulatory Infrastructure. The Kingdom of Lesotho remains indebted to the Agency for the unwavering support rendered under the Technical Cooperation Programme. On Monday the 16th The Kingdom of Lesotho participated at the annual treaty event by depositing an Instrument of Acceptance to The Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Instrument is indicative of the Lesotho's commitment to providing a conducive environment to the experts of the Agency during their missions in Lesotho. Lesotho enacted the long awaited Nuclear Law in November 2018. The Government is committed to the establishment of the Regulatory Authority and has commenced the process of appointing the Board, allocating funding and later on the staff of the Authority. The Government continues to engage the Agency in this process for guidance and direction.

Madam President,

The theme as we all know, for this year's Scientific Forum is "A decade of Action on Cancer Control and the Way Forward". The

Kingdom of Lesotho is fully aware of the challenges of the scourge of cancer and is currently planning to construct a radiotherapy facility as well as developing the human resource component under a Technical Cooperation Project LES/6002.

Madam President,

In November 2018, the Kingdom of Lesotho signed the Country Programme Framework (CPF) (2018-2023) during the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology. The document reinforces the close working relationship between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Agency in various sectors of development.

In conclusion, let me emphasise that Lesotho continues to pledge her support to the Agency in the fulfilling its mandate.

Thank You.