

Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT)
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Speech

H.E. Dr.-Ing. Abraham Belay, Minister

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Dear Mr. President, Azzeddine Farhane

Director General Grossi,

Distinguished Guests and Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by congratulating you, Ambassador Farhane and your country Kingdom of Morocco, for having been elected as President of the 64th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

I would also like to thank Mexico for a successful presidency of the 63rd Session of the General Conference.

Let me also use this opportunity to congratulate the Independent State of Samoa and the Republic of Guinea for the acceptance of their application for Membership of IAEA.

Mr. President.

As a founding member of the IAEA since its establishment in 1957, my Country through the years has enhanced its collaborations with the agency being highly committed and strictly compliant to the causes of the agency towards peaceful applications of the principles of Nuclear Science and Technology in the diversified

developmental sectors. In this regard, we are closely working with the Agency with exhibited and growing partnership pacts aimed at promoting and employing nuclear science & technology in its development endeavors.

Mr. President.

My country Ethiopia greatly regards the firm commitment of the agency in advancing the principles enshrined within its motto *"Atoms for Peace and Development"*, across the globe. This commitment is demonstrated through the Agency's ever-increasing partnership and programs with member states of which my country is one.

Moreover, as part of its continued effort to support Member States, even in this uncertain and difficult time of COVID 19 global pandemic, the Agency has stretched to extend its practical support, by way of strengthening national response capabilities aimed at controlling and mitigating the challenges of the pandemic. The people and Government of Ethiopia are grateful for the concrete support received so far and look forward for further collaboration.

Mr President;

Over the years, the peaceful applications of Atomic Energy and its associated tools have proved to be instrumental in addressing developmental needs in key socio-economic

sectors such as agriculture, food security, human health, water resource management, environment, manufacturing industry and energy.

In this regard , Ethiopia has also signed the Country Program Framework (CPF) for the period from 2018 - 2023, for Technical Cooperation with the Agency, ensuring the continued support of the Agency, in the Area of its vital economic sector such as Agriculture, Health, Industry ,Energy and Human Capital development .

Mr President

My government has already put into Force the Legislative and Regulatory Infrastructure Framework that covers all aspects of Radiation and Nuclear Safety, Security, Safeguards and Liability for Nuclear damages.

Ethiopia has put in place the necessary Legal and Institutional Mechanisms that deal with Registration and Licensing of all activities involving nuclear safety and security. Our Regulatory Authority is building itself to be competent to control the use of Ionizing Radiation and other related practices. In line with this the Authority is cooperating with the US-NRC for safe and secure utilization of Radiation and Nuclear Technologies.

Mr President

As strong commitment and desire to put in place strong leadership at national level,

the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is in the final process of establishing an independent institution that is permanently responsible to manage and strengthen the continued collaborations with the IAEA and other member states for peaceful application of nuclear technology.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my country's strong commitment towards its longstanding position in support of total elimination of Nuclear Weapons and creation of a Nuclear Weapon free world.

Thank you