

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E RAMSES JOSEPH CLELAND
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA AT THE
64TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD IN
VIENNA, AUSTRIA FROM 21ST – 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

Mr. President,

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. The Ghana delegation joins previous speakers to warmly congratulate you Mr. President on your election to lead this 64th regular session IAEA General Conference. We commend you and your Bureau for the professional conduct of this meeting so far and assure you of our fullest support and cooperation. We also extend congratulations to the Director General Rafael Grossi for successful election to this high office. My delegation congratulates the Agency for sixty-four years of effective cooperation in advancing nuclear science and technology in the world..

2. My delegation congratulates and warmly welcomes the respective Governments and the people of Samoa and Guinea on their membership to the Agency and we assure them of our full support. We are confident that their membership will further enhance the work of the sub-region and promote the work of the Agency.

Mr. President,

3. Ghana is developing its nuclear power programme in full compliance with the IAEA milestone approach. The first part of the Programme Comprehensive Report (PCR) has been developed and will be fully implemented as soon as it received Cabinet approval. The Government of Ghana remains committed to the nuclear power programme and to safe peaceful use of Nuclear technology. In addition, Ghana has recently received three (3) seismic equipment procured under a cost sharing agreement with the Agency. Installation of the equipment at the four identified candidate sites for continuous monitoring is ongoing. Ghana has also acceded to the three other liability conventions which are ;

- (I) Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage,
- (II) Protocol to Amend the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, and
- (III) the Joint Convention relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention.

With the above, Ghana has now acceded to the twelve (12) mandatory international legal conventions for countries seeking to utilise nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

4. The country is not relenting in efforts to ensure that all nuclear facilities and radiation sources at its disposal are utilized safely and

securely. Ghana has developed a Design Basis Threat for the country and has submitted it to the National Security Council Secretariat for implementation. In addition, nuclear security regulations comprising of radioactive source security, physical protection and transport security have also been drafted and reviewed by the Agency and awaiting the approval of the Governing Board of Nuclear Regulatory Authority.

Mr. President,

5. . Among the various forms of assistance which we credit to the IAEA is the latter's support for upgrading the status of equipment and retooling of laboratories of the Radiation Protection Institution of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC).

Ghana We are also appreciative to the IAEA for the donation of Training Equipment, Fellowship Training and Staff Development as well as receiving of expert advice on periodic reviews of the Medical Physics programme. It is gratifying to note that over thirty (30) African countries have benefited from the IAEA Fellowships through the Postgraduate Certificate Course, Masters and PhD Programmes at the School.

7. With the support of the IAEA, putative mutated hybrid cassava populations have been developed through crosses with irradiated pollen and undergoing evaluation and phenotyping in the field.

The project has also developed capacity for mutation breeding and tissue culture.

8. It is worth mentioning that, a new Isotope analyser received from the IAEA has greatly enhanced research activities in water resources management in the country. Ghana is also piloting the I-WAVE methodology together with four other IAEA Member States, namely; Benin, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger. This has led to the development of a hydrological gap sketch matrix for water resources management in Ghana.

9. Through the supports from the IAEA, the facilities at the Ghana's two (2) Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine Centres; the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital and Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital have been upgraded to improve management of cancer in the country.

Mr. President,

10. In the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the country greatly appreciates the assistance of the IAEA for supporting Ghana with diagnostics kits, equipment and other items for the human health and zoonotic diseases. The first COVID-19 items received from the Agency is in use at the University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho. This has tremendously enhanced the capacity of the faculty in the detection of the virus in the Eastern part off the country. We have started receiving the items for the zoonotic programme which will be presented to the Veterinary Laboratory at Pong, Tamale in the Northern part of the country.

We are very grateful to the Director General for his unceasing support to the country.

Mr. President,

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

I thank you.