



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE 64TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

21ST TO 25TH SEPTEMBER, 2020.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

**DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR STELLA MOKAYA ORINA, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE**

ON

22ND SEPTEMBER, 2020

**Mr. President,
Director General,
Excellences
Distinguished Delegates,**

I congratulate you Mr. President on your election to preside over this General Conference and I assure you Kenya's full support.

The Conference is being held during unusual times when the world is faced with the serious challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. Kenya stands in solidarity with all Member States affected by the pandemic, and calls for enhanced collaboration and multilateralism to address its enormous effects amongst other pressing global challenges.

Kenya applauds the Agency for responding to requests from Member States including Kenya by providing diagnostic equipment which utilize nuclear-derived techniques to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This support has contributed to improved detection capabilities and mitigation of the impacts of the pandemic. We thank the Member States for their generous contributions which made this assistance possible.

My delegation welcomes the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project initiated by the Director General, to foster preparedness and strengthen Member States' capabilities to promptly detect, and potentially prevent outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, through provision of support and coordination of research and development.

Kenya attaches great importance to the work of the Agency and appreciates its role in supporting Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology to enhance their capacities to meet their development priorities and sustainable development goals. In this regard, we desire a strong partnership with the Agency in the applications of nuclear science and technology to achieve our needs and priorities including through the Technical Cooperation Programme which is the Agency's primary mechanism for transferring nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

Cancer is the third leading cause of mortality in Kenya, with an estimated 33,000 deaths and 47,000 new cases annually. We have therefore, committed to expand radiotherapy services across the country. The establishment of the second hub of cancer center at one of our biggest Referral hospitals and training of health professionals in cancer management has been possible

with the support from the Agency.

We welcome the Agency's further support in the expansion of cancer centers countrywide and development of human resources in nuclear and radiation medicine.

My delegation underscores the importance of the sterile insect technique (SIT) in the endeavour to eradicate invasive pests that affect plants, animals and human health. We look forward to collaborating with the Agency in the application of SIT in the management of mosquito transmitted diseases such malaria which still remain a challenge, as well as fruit flies which damage mangoes and bananas, occasioning Kenyan farmers loss of over € 500 million annually.

In addition to the animal and plant pests, consistent drought spells have negatively impacted on agriculture and food security which is one of Kenya's top priorities. In this regard, we call upon the Agency in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to strengthen use of nuclear technology to improve agricultural productivity.

Kenya prioritizes capacity building in the field of nuclear science and technology, and looks forward to strong collaboration with the Agency in developing young people's skills and knowledge to reap from nuclear science. To this end, Kenya aspires to work closely with the Agency and other partners in developing human resources through the various training programmes including the newly launched Marie-Curie Fellowship Programme, the Sandwich Training Educational Programme (STEP) and the safeguards traineeships.

Mr. President,

Kenya, through an Act of Parliament, has established the Nuclear Regulatory Authority to maintain nuclear safety and security and is keen to deepen collaboration with Agency with a view to strengthening our nuclear security regime.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Kenya thanks the Agency for the excellent manner it has been discharging its mandate by accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. We are confident that DG Grossi's vision and energy will propel this important organization to greater heights

I wish this General Conference fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.