

## **Mr. President**

1. I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the (IAEA) General Conference. Be assured of Nigeria's full support as we meet under unprecedented circumstances under your wise leadership.
2. My delegation is appreciative of the leadership of Director General Rafael Marianno Grossi and the professionalism of the secretariat including for adopting innovative approaches to continue supporting Member States despite the global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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3. The assistance of the Agency through the provision of COVID-19 detection equipment, Personnel Protective Equipment and associated reagents and kits is a demonstration of the viability of nuclear and nuclear derived techniques to meet societal challenges, we welcome the extra budgetary contributions that enabled the support and we encourage the Agency to deepen collaboration with other relevant international organisations including the WHO, the FAO and the OIE to defeat COVID-19 and other zoonotic diseases.
4. Accordingly, My delegation appreciates the initiative of the Director General on the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC). We believe that the project is an important approach to the prevention of future pandemics through the combination of effective surveillance, monitoring, rapid detection and control. My country is optimistic that this will strengthen the preparedness and capabilities of Member States to respond to infectious diseases outbreaks especially at the animal-human interface. Nigeria's veterinary research laboratories would be glad to partner.
5. The theme of this year's Scientific Forum '*Nuclear Power and the Clean Energy Transition*' is both timely and appropriate due to the negative impact of climate change that is increasingly becoming apparent and the role of nuclear energy as a low carbon emitting solution for an energy deficient world.

6. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has continued to strengthen the use of Nuclear Medicine therapy in the country, only recently, the radionuclide therapy ward of the University College Ibadan was upgraded and expanded with the installation of more radionuclide therapy beds thus making the centre a flagship in Africa.
7. Similarly, we continue to encourage private sector investments in nuclear medicine and radiotherapy, a private and state-of-the-art nuclear medicine centre will be opened in Lagos Nigeria later in the year. This will complement the activities of other nuclear medicine facilities in the country. We would continue to look forward to the IAEA's assistance as appropriate especially in terms of capacity building and transfer of technology.
8. I would like to underscore Nigeria's appreciation and support for the work of the IAEA in all domains of its mandate in particular, the IAEA's work in peaceful uses of nuclear technology delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme and in international peace and security through the Safeguards and Verification activities.

Thank you Mr President