

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



RWANDA STATEMENT AT THE 64TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

DELIVERED BY:

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**Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, President of the General Conference,
Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegation, Director General of IAEA,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Rwandan delegation during this 64th Regular Session of the General Conference. I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, on your election as President of this year's General Conference. I wish to pledge the full support and co-operation of the Rwandan delegation.

Rwanda has, for almost a decade since we joined the Agency, cooperated and will continue to do so through all platforms that seek to promote peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. In close collaboration with the Agency, the Republic of Rwanda is continuing to diversify nuclear science and technology applications in various sectors, such as: food and agriculture, healthcare, water resources management, industrial applications and sustainable energy.

In this context, we have prioritized strengthening the legal and regulatory infrastructure necessary to support the safe use of nuclear technology. We recognize the importance of international legal instruments on nuclear safety and security and we are grateful for the excellent collaboration with the Agency, which has been assisting us in this regard.

Last year, Rwanda opened its first cancer treatment centre equipped with modern technology. We value the continued support from IAEA in the health sector, the latest being equipment and materials donated towards the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic. Two (2) days before I travelled to Vienna for the General Conference, I visited Rwanda's National Reference Laboratory where this equipment was received and put to use since July 2020. The Head of the Lab was particularly grateful for Biosafety Cabinets, which have helped keep the Lab personnel safe as they conduct thousands of COVID-19 tests daily.

Rwanda has laid out a Vision 2050, aimed at citizen-centred prosperity and improving the quality of life for all. It sets a target of achieving upper-middle income status by 2035 and high-income status by 2050. Prior to the COVID pandemic, Rwanda had achieved sustained economic growth of 7-8% for over 10 years. As we all grapple with economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic; nuclear Science and Technology

will play an important role in the future growth, including powering the developments in various sectors of the economy.

In conclusion, we re-iterate the importance of international cooperation, which will be even more vital in the post-pandemic era. I wish you all good health and successful deliberations at this year's General Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.