



THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

**STATEMENT AT THE 65TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

20TH TO 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2021.

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

**DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. ROBINSON NJERU GITHAE,
AMBASSADOR/RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE IAEA**

ON

22ND SEPTEMBER, 2021

Mr. President

Director General, Mr. Rafael Grossi

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kenyan delegation.
2. I congratulate you Mr. President on your election to preside over the 65th General Conference. I also congratulate all members of the General Committee. Rest assured of Kenya's full support and cooperation.
3. Kenya attaches great importance to the work of the Agency and is pleased to note that the Agency continues to support Member States through the use of nuclear science and technology including in human & animal health, energy, food production, water management, industrial applications and environmental protection. This is in line with Kenya's development plan as envisaged in Kenya Vision 2030.
4. Kenya thanks the Agency and the donor countries for the rapid response to COVID-19 pandemic by assisting Member States including Kenya to manage the pandemic, through the provision of RT-PCR diagnostic equipment and related kits. This support has contributed significantly to improved detection capabilities to stem the spread of the COVID-19 and hence mitigating its impacts.
5. Kenya welcomes the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project aimed at strengthening the preparedness and capabilities of Member States to manage zoonotic diseases by building institutional capacity. We look forward to collaboration with the Agency on this project.
6. My delegation appreciates the Agency's role in strengthening the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. In this regard, Kenya will make an additional contribution towards the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories project.

Mr. President

7. Kenya appreciates the Agency's ongoing support in the expansion of radiotherapy services. Through the support of the Agency, Kenya recently commissioned a new radiotherapy centre at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, which now serves as the second hub of cancer care in the country. The centre serves a region with approximately 25 million people thus bringing a great relief in accessing cancer treatment services. Additionally, with the support of the Agency, Kenya has procured a Cobalt-60 Radiation Therapy Calibration System. This will improve the quality of cancer services in Kenya.
8. Agriculture remains a priority for Kenya. In this regard, Kenya appreciates the Agency's support in the development of resilient crop varieties and breeding of new varieties of quality fodder to address challenges in the beef and milk production value chains. In this context, we are pleased to note that a Kenyan is among the recipients of the Women and Plant Mutation Breeding Award.
9. Kenya appreciates Agency's support through trainings and looks forward to establishing local institutional capacity to offer both graduate and post graduate training in nuclear science and engineering. Further, Kenya is grateful to the support it has received through the Internet Reactor Laboratory (IRL) project which will assist the national universities to undertake research. Kenya stands ready to continue partnering with the Agency including in offering training opportunities to fellows from the region in the field of nuclear science.

Mr. President

10. In June 2021, Kenya hosted the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) follow-up mission to assess the level of implementation of Kenya's Phase 1 INIR Mission recommendations. We are happy to report that the mission concluded that Kenya has made significant progress in its endeavour to introduce nuclear power in the energy mix.
11. Kenya is undertaking a feasibility study to strengthen the national understanding of the obligations and commitments involved in the introduction of a sustainable research reactor programme. In this regard, we look forward to continued collaboration with the Agency.

12. Kenya has made significant strides in the development of regulations for the operationalization of the Nuclear Regulatory Act (2019). In this connection, Kenya thanks the Agency for the continued support in strengthening the competencies of the Regulator. This will go a long way in supporting the regulator's role in ensuring radiation protection for people and the environment.

Mr. President

13. Kenya appreciates the collaboration with the Agency over the years that has seen the establishment of the Non-destructive Testing (NDT) society and looks forward to the development of the NDT training, qualification and certification scheme at all levels. This will improve performance of the industrial sector thus providing high economic benefits and socio-economic development.

14. Kenya welcomes the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative and looks forward to collaborating with the Agency in the integration of nuclear and nuclear derived techniques in the efforts to address the challenges of plastic pollution. My delegation also encourages the Agency to work closely with the Nairobi based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a view to synergizing efforts in addressing marine litter and plastic pollution.

15. In conclusion, Mr. President, Kenya reiterates the importance of the role of Agency in fostering international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology and underscores the need for sufficient funding of the Technical Cooperation activities.

16. I wish this 65th Regular Session of General Conference fruitful deliberations.

I thank you.