



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF NATURAL
RESOURCES & ENERGY OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**

**TO THE IAEA FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY (THE NUCLEAR POWER
MINISTERIAL OR NPM) (IAEA)**

26th - 28th OCTOBER, 2022

**President of the Fifth International Ministerial Conference
On Nuclear Power In The 21st Century;**

Director General of the IAEA;

Honourable Ministers,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates;

Madam President, I would like to join other speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President for the **Fifth International Ministerial Conference On Nuclear Power in The 21st Century** and I assure you of Eswatini's full support and cooperation.

Director General, let me seize this opportunity to applaud the Agency under your leadership, for the expeditious way in which you have continued to support countries in responding to the energy security challenges faced by our countries amongst many.

There is no doubt that nuclear technology can assist Eswatini a great deal in meeting our energy needs in a sustainable manner that contributes to economic growth and well-being of the Eswatini Citizenry.

The Kingdom of Eswatini has through our Nationally Determined Contribution to mitigate against the effects of greenhouse gases committed to: -

1. Doubling the share of renewable energy in the electricity mix by 2030 relative to 2010 levels and

2. Implementing decentralized renewable energy technologies in rural areas to improve energy access and reduce unsustainable wood harvesting practices

The country through the competitive bidding process, is working on procuring 40 MW solar and 40MW biomass power projects from Independent Power Producers. We are also piloting off grid solutions to establish their viability for Eswatini for the benefit of households not economically reachable by the grid.

Eswatini applauds the support from the Agency for energy planning, which has helped the country expand the Energy Master Plan up to 2050 appropriately forging the energy pathway for the country.

Madam President, through the International Atomic Energy Agency Technical Cooperation Programme, the country has made considerable progress in the development of a nuclear safety law as well as the regulatory infrastructure to provide for nuclear radiation safety in Eswatini. Currently regulations are being developed to ensure the health, safety and security of the use of nuclear technology in Eswatini and it is anticipated that the law will be operational in 2023.

An interim Regulatory Body has been put in place to set up stage for the smooth implementation of the law once enacted into an Act of Parliament. This includes the appointment of coordinators for implementing the various tasks and expectations under the Agency Statutes, finalizing the national inventory as well as the construction of the radiotherapy facility.

Eswatini attaches great importance to the Agency's core mandate in the fields of nonproliferation, nuclear energy, nuclear safety,

nuclear security and technical cooperation and will continue to be fully engaged with the Agency in this regard.

In conclusion, the Kingdom of Eswatini is still new in the nuclear energy field. We are here to learn from colleagues on energy security issues including necessary infrastructure for harnessing the full potential of nuclear energy. I am looking forward to fruitful deliberations in this very vital meeting madam President.

I thank you for your attention!
