



**COUNTRY STATEMENT BY HON. OKAASAI SIDRONIUS OPOLOT
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY**

**DURING THE INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21st CENTURY**

OCTOBER 26th - 30th, 2022

WASHINGTON D.C., USA

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I congratulate you and the members of your bureau upon your election. My delegation wishes you success in steering this International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century.
2. I applaud the Government of the United States of America for hosting this conference at a time when the “*Energy Transition*” topic is a key debate among ministers, decision-makers and experts. I am optimistic that the discussions this week will shape the global debates by underscoring the pivotal role of nuclear energy towards achieving “*Net Zero Carbon Emissions*”, energy security and sustainable development.
3. **Madam President**, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for his leadership in facilitating cooperation in the nuclear field and promoting the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
4. I also thank the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the continued cooperation towards this end.

5. **Madam President**, Uganda has abundant energy resources fairly distributed throughout the country. These include; hydropower, biomass, solar, geothermal, peat, uranium and fossil fuels. Sustainable development and utilization of these resources necessitate establishing transparent and well-balanced partnerships with key technology providers across the globe.
6. In line with electricity generation, predominantly hydropower, the government is developing all the available generation potential. However, if fully developed, the hydro, biomass, geothermal and peat potential cannot meet Uganda Vision 2040 targets. Therefore, Uganda is taking firm steps to integrate nuclear energy into the electricity generation mix to ensure energy security and provide sufficient electricity for industrialization.
7. Therefore, **Madam President**, nuclear power is part of Uganda's energy transition plan. My government continues to develop the requisite infrastructure to prepare the country for the safe and sustainable integration of nuclear energy in the national electricity mix.
8. In this regard, the Government of Uganda, in cooperation with the Agency, completed Phase 1 of the Agency's Milestones Approach for developing the national infrastructure for nuclear power. It has also embarked on "Phase two" activities focusing on "building specialized nuclear institutions and preparatory works towards constructing the first nuclear power plant by 2031.

9. Some of the key development towards this end include; putting in place a sound legal framework, identification of sites for the nuclear installations and establishment of the Center for Nuclear Science and Technology to support human resource development.
10. With nuclear power prospects and the significant rise of atomic energy applications, Uganda is committed to strengthening the national infrastructure for nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards.
11. I wish to commend the Agency for its international coordination in enhancing nuclear safety and security and for monitoring and safeguarding nuclear material to ensure that peaceful nuclear endeavours do not result in nuclear terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation.
12. Uganda believes that maintaining a proper global nuclear safety and security regime will facilitate the sustainable utilization of nuclear energy for socio-economic development.
13. In conclusion, Uganda appreciates all efforts and technological advancements to enhance nuclear power's contribution to climate change mitigation, energy security and sustainable development. Uganda believes that these developments cannot be sustained without peace and security.
14. I thank you, **Madam President**.