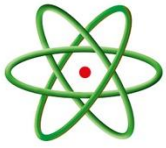


# **AFCONE**



**AFRICAN  
COMMISSION  
ON NUCLEAR  
ENERGY**

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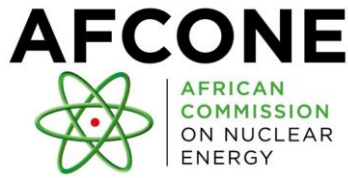
**STATEMENT BY: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF  
THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON NUCLEAR  
ENERGY  
(AFCONE)**

**MR. ENOBOT AGBORAW**

**TO THE:  
67<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY**

**VIENNA, 27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**PEACE • POWER • PROSPERITY**



Your Excellency, the President of the General Conference,

Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

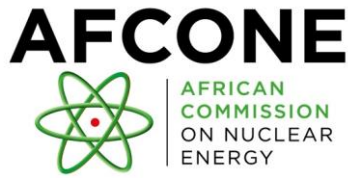
The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) congratulates Your Excellency the President of the General Conference, on your election as President of the 67th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference.

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

The African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) is the Secretariat of the African Nuclear Weapon free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba), and it is the inter-governmental African nuclear organization that is uniquely mandated to ensure nuclear Non-Proliferation and disarmament in Africa, as well as to engender industrial and socio-economic development in Africa through the promotion of the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology.

I am pleased to inform you that the African Commission on Nuclear Energy continues to make progress in undertaking its mandate, and hence furthering peace, security and development in Africa (and globally).



**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

The work of AFCONE is structured around 4 pillars: Nuclear Non-Proliferation; Disarmament; the Peaceful Applications of Nuclear Science and technology; and Regional & International Cooperation.

Since the last General Conference in 2022, AFCONE has made good progress in advancing nuclear Non-Proliferation and disarmament.

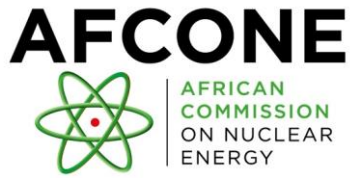
In May 2023, AFCONE launched the first African led and organized safeguards capacity building programme in Pelindaba South Africa, in collaboration with the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). This programme, which is based on needs assessment of the participating African States ensures sustainability of the outcomes, and creates a solid foundation upon which African countries participate in international nuclear cooperation and trade.

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

The African continent is facing a severe energy poverty. The African continent has the lowest per capita access to electricity, compared to other regions of the world. It is therefore imperative and urgent for African countries to construct many new electricity power plants.

In order to mitigate negative impacts of climate change and to contribute to net zero within reasonable timeframes, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy is strongly advocating for nuclear power to be the lynchpin of the energy transition in Africa.



The African Commission on Nuclear Energy is undertaking this effort through close cooperation and coordination with the African Union, as well as through direct engagement with African States, both individually and as groups of States.

Considering that African countries are at widely different stages in the development of the infrastructure issues required for nuclear power programmes, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy is promoting a multilateral approach as the key strategy for developing nuclear power in Africa. Apart from accelerating the process through leveraging synergies and opportunities between the countries, the multilateral approach has other advantages, such as advancing nuclear Non-Proliferation, and facilitating financing for the power projects.

The African Commission on Nuclear Energy is undertaking these efforts in collaboration with the IAEA and other partners. On 28 September 2022 the IAEA and AFCONE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), valid for a period of three years, till 2025. Activities to support the effective and efficient development of nuclear power programmes have been prioritized in the draft work plans that have been prepared to facilitate the implementation of the MoU between AFCONE and the IAEA.

In 2023, AFCONE was admitted as an Observer in INPRO, which is one of the IAEA approaches for the sustainable development of nuclear power programmes. AFCONE's participation in this programme provides an additional avenue for guiding and advising African embarking States in the development of their nuclear power programmes.



**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

With regard to promoting the other peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in Africa, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy has taken great strides in the last year, particularly in the areas of cancer treatment and medical diagnosis, agriculture, food security, mining and radioactive waste management.

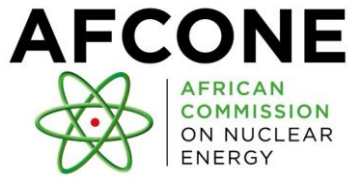
AFCONE facilitated cooperation and collaboration between African States in order to expand access of medical radioisotopes and radiation medicine in Africa. A

AFCONE also facilitated cooperation between African States and AFCONE partners in the utilization of radiation technologies to ensure food security and safety.

AFCONE is aiming to play a central role in coordinating cooperation within Africa, as well as with international partners, in order to ensure that cooperation is fit for purpose, to prevent duplication of efforts, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and to optimize the utilization of both human and financial resources.

**Madam President,**  
**Distinguished Delegates,**

The population of the African Continent currently stands at about 1.4 billion people, and the United Nations estimates that the population will double by the year 2050. African is experiencing the highest growth rate in population,



but the lowest growth rate in access to nuclear technologies to address Africa's urgent challenges.

In order to urgently address these issues, the African Commission on Nuclear Energy is reiterating its recommendation to prioritize a multilateral African approach in the development of nuclear energy infrastructure issues. This would entail more regional African cooperation; and more inter-African and intra-African cooperation. The multilateral African Approach, when combined with international cooperation that is already in good stead, will provide a good chance in addressing Africa's urgent issues expeditiously and effectively.

**Madam President,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

In spite of the many achievements that we celebrate in the nuclear energy space, AFCONE recognizes that there are still concerns and hurdles to be overcome.

In this regard, I recall the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which was concluded on 26 August 2022, without an outcome. The AFCONE is participating in the NPT Prep Comms, collaborating with the other regional Nuclear Weapon Free Zones, and garnering support among African States, in order to foster a successful outcome for the 2026 NPT Review Conference.

In conclusion, I express my sincere thanks to the IAEA, to all AFCONE partners, and to African State Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba, and to the African Union for their support to the AFCONE, and for the important roles that they play in working with us to further peace, security and development in the world.

I Thank you!