



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

DELIVERED BY

**AMB. MARY MUGWANJA AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA /PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA**

**DURING THE 67TH INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
GENERAL CONFERENCE**

25TH TO 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

**Madam President,
Director General, Mr. Rafael Grossi,
Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Distinguished Delegates, good afternoon**

Madam. President

1. I wish to congratulate you on your election to preside over the 67th IAEA General Conference. My delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.
2. I also wish to congratulate Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, on his re-appointment as the Director General of the Agency for a second term. We commend Mr. Grossi for the diligent and professional manner he has carried out his mandate despite the challenging times.
3. We further laud DG Grossi for his progressive work in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear applications, in particular his initiatives: **Rays of Hope, ZOODIAC and NUTEC** which have increased the transfer of nuclear technologies and knowledge to developing Countries in important areas of Social Economic Development. We also commend DG Grossi for his initiative, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP) and the Lise Meitner Programme (LMP) which aim to increase the number of women in the nuclear field. DG Grossi we assure you of Kenya's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your mandate during the Second Term.

Madam President

4. Kenya highly values the continued collaboration with the Agency and notes with appreciation, the progress achieved by the Agency in promoting access to peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in line with its statutory mandate.
5. Kenya signed its 5th Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2023 – 2027 with priority areas of Health and Nutrition, Food and Agriculture, Energy and Industry, Water and Environment and Industrial Application Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security
On 2nd March 2023.

Madam President

6. Cancer remains a public health challenge and is now the third leading cause of death in Kenya. With an estimated annual incidence of about 48,000, out of which only about 23% have access to radiotherapy services. My delegation welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Rays of Hope initiative to increase access to affordable and sustainable radiotherapy services.
7. Kenya is among the flagship Countries of this initiative which has developed an **Action Plan** to address existing needs and gaps and is due to receive radiotherapy equipment. We, therefore, commend Countries that are making contributions to this initiative through extrabudgetary funds, and encourage the Agency to continue its efforts in resource mobilization, to meet the high demand for access to early quality cancer detection and treatment especially in Africa.

Madam President

8. Kenya acknowledges the positive contribution of nuclear power in climate change mitigation and energy security. We are pleased to inform that we have made significant progress in the introduction of nuclear power in our energy mix. We anticipate to actualize our nuclear power programme by 2036, and we will continue to partner with the Agency in developing nuclear related infrastructure, including: regulatory framework; National security support plan, nuclear fuel cycle and radioactive waste management; emergency planning; radiation protection; site and support facilities; electric grid studies; industrial involvement, and human resources development among others.
9. In support of the work of the Agency in the area of nuclear energy, Kenya hosted the first Inter-regional Training Course on Nuclear Power Infrastructure Development on the Agency's milestone approach to provide a comprehensive framework for countries considering or embarking on nuclear power programs. We welcome the regular organization of this course and stand ready to host more in the coming years.

10. We are also pleased to be the **Second African Country** to host the Agency's – Postgraduate Education Course in Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Sources (PGEC).
11. Kenya is pursuing the establishment of a Nuclear Research Reactor. With the assistance of the Agency, we have trained personnel and undertaken feasibility study to evaluate key elements essential for sustainable implementation of the research reactor. We look forward to the Agency's support in carrying out the Research Reactor INIR Mission and subsequent activities.

Madam President

12. Food and Agriculture remains a key priority for Kenya. The application of nuclear science and technology is critical in the efforts to raise agricultural productivity and sustainability as well as adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change. In this regard, Kenya continues to support the work of the Agency in the promotion of **Climate Smart Agriculture** and appreciates the continued support that has led to successful use of nuclear techniques to drive smallholder productivity to improve nutrient use efficiency for improved bean, cassava, potato and wheat varieties.
13. My delegation calls upon the Agency to redouble its efforts in the extension of mutation breeding for crop improvement of major crops, efficient soil-water-nutrient management for enhanced productivity, in addition to food irradiation to prolong the shelf-life of foods. We also encourage the Agency to continue assisting countries in the implementation of **Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)** to improve the quality of animal reproduction and nutrition.

Madam President

14. Kenya attaches great importance and supports the Agency's work in the application of isotope hydrology for water resources management, through which our ability to undertake evidence-based decision-making for the sustainable management of surface and groundwater resources has been enhanced.

15. Kenya appreciates the support received under the NUTEC Plastics initiative in the implementation of a pollution monitoring programme covering major contaminants and ocean acidification, monitoring plastic pollution and finding practical solutions for plastics management. **We reiterate Kenya's readiness to be designated a Pilot Country under this initiative and encourage the Agency to work closely with the Nairobi based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).** In this regard we welcome the Agency's participation and contribution to the preparatory work for a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and to the elaboration of a common approach towards a pollution-free planet.

Madam President

16. My delegation appreciates the collaboration with the Agency over the years that has shaped the establishment of **Non- Destructive Testing (NDT) and Dosimetry laboratories.** The laboratories have supported both the industrial and healthcare sectors by providing traceability through calibration services. We are further expanding the scope our **Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory** in order to ensure quality and accuracy of diagnostic and treatment facilities.

17. Human Resources Development remains a priority for Kenya. In this regard, we look forward to close cooperation with the Agency in developing human resources through the Agency's various training programmes, capacity building and regular exchanges between our local Universities and experts in this field.

18. In conclusion, **Madam President,** Kenya reaffirms its support for the Agency's activities and encourages the Secretariat to continue mobilizing more resources and expand partnerships to fill the financing gaps for the Agency's activities in the applications of nuclear science and technology.

I THANK YOU