

# THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



## RWANDA STATEMENT AT THE 67<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

**DELIVERED BY:**

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**RWANDA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD**

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- ❖ **Madam President,**
- ❖ **Director General of IAEA,**
- ❖ **Distinguished Delegates,**
- ❖ **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. I am honoured to deliver the statement on behalf of the Republic of Rwanda and the Rwandan delegation at this 67<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference;

2. We would like to congratulate you, Madam President, on your election as President of this year's General Conference; and We wish to pledge our full support and cooperation.
3. We also congratulate Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi on his appointment as the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a second term. We express our appreciation for Mr. Grossi's commendable work in promoting the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Socio – Economic Development. We express our support to the Director General's flagship initiatives such as Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, Small Modular Nuclear Reactor Technologies and all other initiatives aiming at the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. The Republic of Rwanda plans to integrate peaceful nuclear technology solutions to trigger the socio – economic transformation leading to the realization of its long-term Vision 2050. The Rwanda Country Programme Framework highlights several priority areas such as Food and Agriculture, Human Health, Water Resources Management, Environment Management and Energy and Industry where the use of nuclear science solutions is going to make a significant positive impact. Along with our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we are committed to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology for sustainable socio – economic development.
5. The Rwanda Atomic Energy Board is the government institution in charge of implementing national nuclear energy projects. Necessary studies are ongoing for the Research Reactor based Centre of Nuclear Science and

Technology with main objectives being Training and Education, Industrial Applications and, Research and Development.

6. The Government of Rwanda has decided to introduce nuclear energy in its energy generation mix. The Small Modular Nuclear Reactor technologies will be the base of our future nuclear power plants and a pre – feasibility study of a nuclear power plant project based on SMR technology will be completed by the end of this year. The Government of Rwanda is fully aware that these SMR technologies are new and mostly under development. Consequently, Rwanda is establishing strategic partnerships with interested SMR developing companies with the objective to have the whole or part of the development process taking place in Rwanda. Our national nuclear regulator is being strengthened and given the required capacity to supervise and regulate this process. We believe this approach will accelerate knowledge and technology transfer, as well as skills development and hence will result in a fast implementation of national nuclear energy projects. To realize this objective, we are committed to working closely with the IAEA to ensure all nuclear safety, security and safeguards standards are strictly followed.

**Madam President,**

7. Rwanda recognises the importance of global efforts towards nuclear safety and security worldwide and the IAEA's central role as the international nuclear regulation authority. To allow developing countries also to take part in the process of developing new nuclear technologies that may better fit and respond to their respective needs, we call upon

the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to reconsider their decision and allow developing countries with no operating nuclear facilities to access the Nuclear Energy Agency's Data Bank and its training and educational tools.

8. The Republic of Rwanda appreciates the support it receives from the IAEA through its different departments, as well as through the African Regional Cooperative Agreement on Research, Training and Development related to Nuclear Science and Technology. Rwanda is also keen to work closely with the African Commission on Nuclear Energy to advance the integration of nuclear civil applications in Africa.

9. Rwanda is honoured to be among the pioneer states in the COMPASS initiative that involves the IAEA partnering with States to help them strengthen the effectiveness of their national authority responsible for safeguards implementation and of their respective system of accounting for and control of nuclear material. It is certain that the expertise acquired through this initiative will be shared to the rest of the member states.

**Madam President,**

10. In conclusion, Rwanda reiterates her commitment to IAEA. We thank the Agency, the Director General and his entire team for the invaluable contribution towards expanding and promoting nuclear science and Technology for development.

**Thank You for your kind attention!**