



**Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered by
H.E Azzeddine FARHANE, Ambassador, Permanent Representative,
at the 67th session of the General Conference of the IAEA**

Vienna, 25-29 September 2023

**Check Against Delivery*

Madam President,

1. **On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco**, I extend my warmest congratulations to you, Excellency Mrs. Vilawan Mangklatanakul **Ambassador Permanent Representative of Thailand** on your election as President of the 67th session of the IAEA General Conference.

Madam President,

2. The 67th session of the General Conference is being held in a **particular context marked by tension, uncertainty and major challenges** to uphold the international regime of nuclear safety and security, while guaranteeing in parallel the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
3. Indeed, our gathering today is a valuable opportunity, for all of us, **to renew our political commitment** for a safe and secure use of nuclear technology applications, **to assess** what has been done by the Agency and Member States, particularly in support for the technical cooperation programme, and **to take collective actions** for strengthening the international nuclear safety and security regime.

Madam President,

4. The Kingdom of Morocco has put in place a clear and structured national strategy for the promotion of safe and secure use of nuclear technology applications. To implement this strategy, Morocco undertook concrete actions **at both political and technical levels**.
5. **On this occasion, the Kingdom of Morocco reiterates its constant commitment to support the central role of the IAEA in providing technical assistance to Member States.** In this respect, I would like to point out the following:
 - 5.1. Morocco has developed a reliable infrastructure in the field of peaceful nuclear technology applications thanks to the cooperation with the IAEA and the partner Member States. Morocco's has dedicated its recognized training facilities, at both the regional and international levels, for training and education in different fields of nuclear applications.
 - 5.2. In fact, Morocco's Institutions involved in the implementation of our national strategy were the first in Africa to receive distinctions as Collaborating Centres for the IAEA for the Use of Nuclear Techniques in the fields of water resources management, environmental protection, and industrial applications, as well as Capacity Building in the field of Nuclear Security.
 - 5.3. In recent years, Morocco has been, according to the IAEA records, one of the leading countries in Africa providing trainings, workshop, education, and sharing technical expertise with over 40 African Member States. Bilaterally, and in a triangular cooperation with IAEA, Morocco shared experience at the regional level and promoted the peaceful use of nuclear applications and technologies in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner in different fields, including nuclear medicine and medical physics, nutrition, water, agriculture, industry, environment, energy, as well as safety, security, and nuclear safeguards.
 - 5.4. **It's worth mentioning that the Director General's official visit to Morocco, on June 2022, gave a strong impetus to the constructive cooperation between Morocco and the AIEA. Indeed, one year later after this visit, new areas of cooperation were opened, and existing ones reinforced. In this regard, Morocco is pleased to inform the distinguished Members States that, during these two days of the General Conference, Morocco has received four new recognitions from the IAEA in different fields of applications of nuclear techniques:**

FIRST: Morocco's National Center for Energy Sciences and Nuclear Techniques, CNESTEN, officially received yesterday its designation as an International Center based on Research Reactor (ICERR). CNESTEN will be the first Center in Africa to receive a designation

by the IAEA as an ICERR for «Education and Training» and «Hands-on Training».

SECOND: *The National Oncology Institute (INO) in Rabat*, has been designated today as an **Anchor Center** under the **Rays of Hope** initiative launched by the Director General. This designation will give Morocco the opportunity to share with Member States valuable experience in radiological medicine.

THIRD: *The National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST)*, has been designated yesterday as a **Collaborating Center** in the fields of **molecular biology and genomics** under the **ZODIAC initiative**. Therefore, enabling Morocco to contribute more effectively to the regional and international efforts aimed at preventing pandemics of diseases caused by microorganisms transmissible from animals to humans.

AND FINALLY: *The Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security, AMSSNuR*, will sign this week a **practical arrangement with IAEA aimed at establishing “the African School for Radiation Safety Regulators,”** which will provide trainings and workshops covering all functions of the regulatory bodies and their organization.

6. **These new recognitions are a testimony to the concrete actions taken by Morocco in support of knowledge sharing and capacity building of experts, especially in Africa,** in various fields of nuclear applications, ranging from radiotherapy and water management to nutrition and radiological safety and security.

Madam President,

7. The Kingdom of Morocco, **under the high guidance of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI**, is attached to the principles of South-South cooperation and African Solidarity and committed to continue its actions in support of multilateral efforts and promoting initiatives that embody our collective motto, **“Atoms for Peace and Development.”**
8. **Last year, under the Moroccan Chairmanship, the G77 and China successfully adopted by consensus 10 resolutions** related to technical cooperation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. These resolutions recognized the relevance of the **triple DG initiatives**, including **ZODIAC**.
9. In this connection, Morocco, in its continuous support to **ZODIAC initiative, which was adopted under the Moroccan Chairmanship of the 64th General Conference**, will organize in partnership with the IAEA in 2024, **the first Conference of African Laboratories working under ZODIAC**. This Conference will give participating laboratories the opportunity to coordinate their efforts by creating synergies to further support African Member States resilience, especially against pandemics and zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, Zika or Ebola.
10. Moreover, under the 64th General Conference, Morocco actively contributed to introduce into the agenda, the importance of nuclear applications in the fight against cancer, by organizing for the first time, a High-Level panel, with the participation of Director General of the IAEA, focusing on “The Role of Nuclear Technology in the Fight Against Cervical Cancer in Africa.” While expressing need, to strengthen **the synergy, dynamics, and complementarity between all actors in the fight against cancer, particularly in Africa**, Morocco reiterates its full support to **“Rays of Hope initiative,”** aiming at providing cancer care for all, and alleviating the lack of radiotherapy in developing countries.

Madam President,

11. In conclusion, Morocco remains fully committed **to continue sharing, either in a bilateral setting or in cooperation with the IAEA**, its experience with its partners as well as African countries with a view to promoting the use of nuclear applications, science and technology for peaceful purposes.
12. I thank you for your kind attention and wish all success to the work of our General Conference.

