

National Statement by the Republic of Liberia

Delivered at the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria by Cllr. Jeddi Mowbray Armah, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Liberian Government Delegation.

Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia, I extend warmest greetings to all Member States and would like to seize this moment, to express heartfelt congratulations to you, Ambassador Sang Wook HAM of the Republic of Korea, on your election as President of the 68th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We also express our profound gratitude to Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and the Secretariat for their tireless work and commitment to ensuring global peace, security, and development through the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Liberia reaffirms its commitment to the core objectives of the IAEA and to international cooperation in harnessing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We commend the Agency's role in promoting the safe and secure use of nuclear technology in areas such as health, agriculture, water resources, and energy. These are critical sectors for Liberia's socio-economic development, and we appreciate the ongoing technical cooperation and assistance from the IAEA in support of our national objectives.

Liberia is in the early stages of developing a national framework for the peaceful use of nuclear technology, particularly in medical applications and agriculture. Our focus remains on expanding access to radiotherapy for cancer treatment, improving food security through nuclear techniques in agriculture, and ensuring the safety and protection of our environment. We would like to thank the American Government for its generous provision of funds to facilitate the removal of outdated teletherapy equipment from the premises of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Monrovia.

I report here today that, Liberia has taken substantial steps toward establishing a legal and regulatory framework for radiation protection and nuclear safety. Our national program on radiation safety is designed to safeguard human health and the environment by ensuring that all applications of nuclear energy comply with the highest standards of safety and security. We acknowledge the support of the IAEA in this endeavor, and we seek continued technical assistance to strengthen our regulatory framework and develop human capacity in this critical area.

Mr. President, being fully cognizant of the importance of being in good standing as a responsible Member State, Liberia promises to promptly meet its outstanding financial obligations to the IAEA not only for the restoration of our voting rights and full membership status with appertaining privileges, but to take on a leadership role that significantly contributes to the work of the IAEA. We thank the Agency's leadership for its understanding and patience in these premises so far.

In recognition of the transformative potential of nuclear science in addressing key development challenges such as energy security, food scarcity, and public health, Liberia remains keen on furthering its cooperation with the IAEA in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. We also reaffirm our commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to the IAEA's safeguards system, which are crucial in promoting global peace and security.

In conclusion, Mr. President, as a demonstration of our pledge and unflinching dedication to the objectives of the IAEA, we have brought with us for deposit during this occasion, six instruments that Liberia has acceded to and or accepted, namely, the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the IAEA, Convention on Nuclear Safety, Convention on the Early Notification of Nuclear Accident and Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency.

We shall continue to subscribe to the campaign for the peaceful use of nuclear energy in line with our development goals and the international frameworks established by the IAEA.

We shall continue our engagement with the Agency and other Member States in the pursuit of a safer and more prosperous world.

Thank you, Mr. President.