



---

---

**Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco, delivered by**

**H.E Ms Leila BENALI**

**Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development**

**68<sup>th</sup> session of the IAEA General Conference**

**Vienna, 16 September 2024**

**Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco in Vienna**

**Telephone:** +43 (1) 586 66 50, **Postal Address:** Hasenauerstraße 57 A-1180 Vienna

**Fax :** +43 (1) 586 76 67, **E-mail :** emb-pmissionvienna@morocco.at

**Mr. President,**

1. On behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, I extend my warmest congratulations to you, **Excellency Mr. Ham Sang Wook Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Korea** on your election as President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.

**Mr. President,**

2. Our meeting today takes place against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions, uncertainty context, and major challenges related to the growing need of nuclear energy and the optimal use of nuclear application, while guaranteeing at the same time the conditions of safety and security of the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purpose.
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 undertake collective actions for strengthening the international nuclear safety and security regime. **In this endeavor, the importance of cooperation and dialogue between Member States cannot be overstated.**
4. In this respect, it is worth recalling that **this cooperation and the united Member States actions has positioned the IAEA to have a key role in addressing global challenges**, pertaining particularly to health, agriculture, water, and climate change, **which require global efforts for shaping our future.**

**Mr. President,**

5. The Kingdom of Morocco has continuously **reiterated its standing support for the central role of the IAEA in providing technical assistance to Member States**. In this context, my country commends the initiatives of the IAEA Director General launched during the last 4 years, such as the **NUTEC Plastics, ZODIAC and Rays of Hope**, which contribute in making tangible impact in the areas of environment and health.
6. In the same vein, the Kingdom of Morocco commends the initiative of **Atoms4Food**, which was launched last year by the DG on the use of nuclear application to address **food security** challenges, particularly in Africa. In this connection, we welcome the organization of this year's Scientific Forum under the theme « *Better agriculture for better life* », to be addressed within an integrated approach focusing on climate change, food security, and sustainable production.
7. **We are expecting a positive outcome of the debate which will contribute undoubtedly to undertake collective actions based on strong cooperation aiming at exploring innovative financing and solid partnership.**

**Mr. President,**

8. Two years after the official visit of the Director General to Morocco, on June 2022, a strong impetus has been given to the cooperation between Morocco and the AIEA. In this regard, Morocco received last year, the following four distinctions from the IAEA:

**FIRST: Morocco's National Center for Energy Sciences and Nuclear Technology, CNESTEN**, was designated as the first Center in Africa to receive a designation by the IAEA as an International Center based on Research Reactor (ICERR) for «Education and Training» and «Hands-on Training».

**SECOND:** *The National Oncology Institute (INO) in Rabat*, was designated as *an Anchor Center under the Rays of Hope initiative*.

**THIRD:** The National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST), has been designated as a Collaborating Center in the fields of **molecular biology and genomics**, within the implementation of ZODIAC resolution adopted under the Moroccan chairmanship of the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference in 2020.

**AND FINALLY:** *The Moroccan Agency for Nuclear and Radiological Safety and Security, AMSSNuR*, in collaboration with IAEA established “**the African School for Radiation Safety Regulators,**” to provide trainings and workshops covering all functions of the regulatory bodies and their organization.

9. These Collaborating Centers and Institutions have already started delivering on their promises and began to offer trainings to many Africans experts.
10. In addition, this year again, the IAEA will renew the status of National Center for Energy Sciences and Nuclear Technology as a Collaboration Center in the field of environment.
11. Furthermore, **a new practical arrangement will be concluded**, this afternoon, between CNESTEN and the IAEA with **the objective to promote trainings in the field of radiological and nuclear safety in Africa**.
12. These new recognitions are a testimony to the **continuous commitment of Morocco in supporting technical cooperation and capacity building of experts, especially in Africa**, in various fields of nuclear applications, such as radiotherapy, water management, nutrition, as well as radiological safety and security.

**Mr. President,**

13. In recent years, Morocco has been of the leading countries in Africa providing trainings, workshop, education, and sharing technical expertise with over 40 African Member States.
14. **Last year more than 370 participants from African Members States pursued academic programs in the nuclear field in Morocco or attended training organized in collaboration with the IAEA and the partner Member States. Morocco organized 11 regional trainings in various fields of nuclear applications and helped to carried the analysis of approximately 770 samples using nuclear techniques for many partner African Member States.**
15. Within this dynamic, I am also pleased to inform Member States that Morocco hosted in Rabat , last February, **the Annual Regional Meeting of the National Liaison Officers (NLO) and National AFRA Coordinators**, which focused on strengthening the impact of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Program in Africa to promote the socio-economic development in the continent. **This regional event saw a large participation and was attended by 61 NLO and National Coordinators representing 43 IAEA Member States.**
16. After, the successful implementation of the previous **Country Programme Framework, crowned by the conclusion of 20 technical cooperation projects, Morocco and the DDG for Technical Cooperation signed, last February, the Country Programme Framework (CPF) for period of 2024–2029**, to reinforce their partnership in various areas of nuclear science and technology applications.

**Mr. President,**

17. Water is crucial for human survival, agriculture, industry, and environmental health, and it is imperative to implement robust policies that guarantee equitable access to water resources by fostering international collaboration and cooperation sustainable water management.

18. In his speech to the Nation on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne, on 29 July 2024, his Majesty has underlined and I quote **“one of the greatest challenges we are facing today is that of water -- a challenge which is becoming increasingly serious due to drought and the impact of climate change.”**
19. The urgency of effective and inclusive multilateral actions, that take into account the national circumstances of developing countries, cannot be overstated. In our pursuit of such effective multilateral action, vulnerable communities disproportionately affected, should be at the center of our considerations.
20. HM King Mohammed VI, in his message to COP28 in Dubai emphasized: “I am thinking, in particular, of the situation of middle-income countries, which are leading the battle for socio-economic development as well as for sustainable development. For these countries - including my own, the Kingdom of Morocco - I call for specific, more sustained attention on the part of the international community.”
21. In this respect, and as part of the IAEA projects supporting water policy, Morocco presents, this year, as penholder, a resolution submitted by G77 to be adopted by consensus our General Conference on **“Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactor”**. This resolution underlines, shall I recall, the need for continued strengthening of international cooperation in the planning and implementation of nuclear desalination programs.

**Mr. President,**

22. In closing, the Kingdom of Morocco, **under the high guidance of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI**, may God assist him, 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 moto, **“Atoms for Peace and Development.”**
23. 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.
24. I thank you for your kind attention and wish all success to the work of our General Conference.