



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY,  
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
30 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2017**

**DELIVERED BY HON. CHARLES KETER, EGH  
CABINET SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & PETROLEUM**

**DELIVERED**

**ON**

**31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

**H.E. Mr. Hamad Alkaabi, President of the Conference**

**Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA,**

**Hon. Ministers,**

**Excellences,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Kenyan Delegation is honored to be represented in this International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I take this earliest opportunity to thank the IAEA and the local organizers for providing this forum that gives us the opportunity to share our experiences and challenges as we forge towards the development of nuclear power which will be part of our energy mix.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya became a Member State of the IAEA in 1965 and since then we have actively participated in IAEA programs and activities through Technical Cooperation Projects that are aimed at promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, including nuclear power generation. I wish to thank the IAEA for their continued technical and financial support in developing human and infrastructural resource in the various fields of Nuclear Science and Technology. So far, we have had success stories in increased peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology which have positively contributed to increased human resource, energy development programmes, improved healthcare,

increased food and agricultural productivity, water management, industrial applications, radiation protection and improved environmental management.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Kenya made the decision to go nuclear in 2010 and established the Nuclear Electricity Project Committee which was then transformed to the Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board, with the mandate of fast tracking the development of nuclear electricity power generation thus enhancing the production of safe, affordable and reliable electricity to meet the growing domestic and industrial demand.

This conference will therefore help us share best practices and experience from countries embarking on nuclear power generation and from those with long experience in nuclear power generation. It will also help us network with other players in the nuclear industry and share our progress, achievements and challenges in setting up a vibrant nuclear power programme.

**Mr. President,**

The Kenya Vision 2030 blueprint document recognizes energy as a key enabler for economic growth and Kenya has made the decision to include nuclear power in its energy mix. Kenya has therefore, through its Least Cost Power Development Plan, identified nuclear power as a suitable technology to meet its future electricity demand since it is safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly. We appreciate the Agency and other development partners for the invaluable support they

continue to offer in building capacity for the nuclear power programme in Kenya.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya conducted the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) in 2015 to evaluate the status of our national infrastructure for the introduction of a nuclear power programme and the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) in 2016 to assess our commitment to nuclear and radiation safety. The country has also received technical advice and expert reviews from the Agency in the areas of site selection, reactor technology assessment, industrial involvement as well as in the development of policies and strategies in radioactive waste management and nuclear fuel cycle. This support has played a critical role in the advancement of the various milestones for Kenya's nuclear power programme.

**Mr. President,**

Nuclear Regulatory Institutions are very important in ensuring regulatory control over all activities that may cause radiation hazards to people and the environment. In this regard, Kenya is in the process of establishing the legal and regulatory infrastructure necessary to support the development of the nuclear power programme. The draft Nuclear Regulatory Bill 2017, that seeks to establish an independent regulatory body to handle issues related to nuclear power generation has been developed with input from IAEA and other stakeholders and is now in the process of approval.

**Mr. President,**

Kenya also recognizes the importance of accession to relevant International Treaties and Conventions on nuclear power. In this regard, the country has initiated the process for accession of 4 Conventions on nuclear safety through the guidance of the Agency. Kenya recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation in all phases of the nuclear power programme development and has organized several awareness forums including an international and regional nuclear energy week which was held in March 2017, in which various stakeholders, international organizations and countries participated. We have also undertaken to train our local media through the assistance of the IAEA and this has had a positive influence on a knowledgeable and informed reporting by media.

Lastly Mr. President, I wish to commend the IAEA for their unwavering support to Member States in ensuring that Nuclear Power is harnessed with full conformity to safety, security and safeguards. I therefore wish all participants constructive and fruitful deliberation during this International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century.

**THANK YOU.**

**HON. CHARLES KETER, EGH, CABINET SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & PETROLEUM**