



**AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING RELATED TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**AFRA HIGH LEVEL POLICY REVIEW SEMINAR  
DECLARATION OF ASWAN  
EGYPT 2007**

## **PREAMBLE**

**WE**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation responsible for nuclear science and technology of the Member States of the African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) meeting at the High Level Policy Review Seminar held from 28 to 29 November 2007 in Aswan (Egypt);

**Acknowledging** the decision of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Representatives held in Vienna in September 2006, regarding the organization of a High Level Policy Review Seminar,

**Recalling** the commitments and decisions made at the first African High Level Conference on Nuclear Energy: Contribution to Peace and Socio-Economic Development, held in Algiers, Algeria, 9-10 January 2007;

**Recalling** the Decision (EX.CL/Dec.339 (X)) of the Executive Council of the African Union, taken at its Meeting of 29-30 January 2007, in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), on the contribution of nuclear energy to peace and socio-economic development;

**Aware** of the significant progress achieved in nuclear science and technology at global level, and its impact on improving human health, nutrition, agriculture, water resources management, energy, industry and protecting the environment;

**Taking into account** the important role that nuclear science and technology play in achieving Africa's common aspirations as articulated in the AFRA Agreement,

**Acknowledging** the need for increasing the participation of women and youth in nuclear science and technology,

**Bearing in mind** the recommendations of the Commission for Africa and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as well as the increasing international attention to the role of nuclear science and technology in sustainable development;

**Further aware** of the need to increase, to a significant extent, the support to the promotion of nuclear science and technology as well as research and development, education and training within the AFRA framework;

**Aware** of the necessity to deploy greater efforts to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology with a view to accelerating the socio-economic development of Africa;

**Seeking** to explore all ways and opportunities available to Africa, including generation of electricity and water desalination through nuclear energy, to achieve its development and attain the millennium development goals, taking into account the needs of African populations in the field of health, agriculture, food, water resources, energy and industry, through *inter alia* cooperation and establishment of strategic partnerships ;

**Stressing** the primary role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for human development, in accordance with Article II of its statute and in Article IV of Non Proliferation Treaty;

**Aware** of the contribution of nuclear energy to sustainable peace and development in Africa as a prerequisite for progress and improvement of the well-being of the peoples of the continent;

**Stressing** the renewed interest shown, at the global level, for nuclear power as a viable and sustainable source of energy and as a strategic option to diversify the sources of power generation in order to ensure energy security in the African continent;

**Also aware** of the need to establish a Fund to sustain and enhance nuclear science and Technology activities in the continent;

**HEREBY:**

- 1- Thank the Egyptian government for hosting this Seminar and express our appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for supporting the organization of this Seminar,
- 2- Welcome also the progress achieved by some African countries in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and call for the strengthening of inter-African cooperation in the framework of AFRA,
- 3- Underline the need to promote policies for peaceful uses of nuclear energy at national and regional levels, in order to accelerate the socio-economic development and improve the well-being of the African populations,
- 4- Welcome the existing cooperation between the African States and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and call upon the Agency to strengthen its cooperation with the African States at bilateral level as well as through the AFRA Agreement,
- 5- Urge African States to increase budgetary allocation for national nuclear science and technology related programs,
- 6- Call for the Establishment of an AFRA Fund to support the development nuclear science and technology in Africa,
- 7- Renew the commitment to the spirit and objectives of AFRA, as the framework of cooperation between African countries and also as a mechanism for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC),
- 8- Support the improvement of the managerial procedures of AFRA, with a view to increasing effectiveness and efficiency and to promoting full ownership of its programs by African Member States,
- 9- Adopt the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperation Framework for 2008-2013, which identifies the fields of priority for cooperation in nuclear science and technology,
- 10- Renew the importance we attach to establishing national radiation safety and waste management infrastructure, in conformity with the pertinent international norms and requirements,
- 11- Reaffirm our commitment to continue attaching high priority to the needs of the African countries with

less advanced nuclear technology development, through enhanced TCDC modalities,

12- Pledge to ensure that our national programs will support the implementation of AFRA programs and projects,

13-Call on the AFRA partners, stakeholders, in particular international organizations, to support financially the activities and programs undertaken by AFRA,

14- Reaffirm the importance of human resources development and nuclear knowledge management and call upon Member States, donors and international organizations to support the implementation of AFRA's strategy in this field,

15- Enhance the contribution of women and youth in nuclear science and technology,

16-Adopt the Plan of Action annexed to the Final Declaration of the Seminar.

Adopted in Aswan, 29th of November 2007