



**KENYA'S STATEMENT AT THE 61ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY
18TH TO 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2017.
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

**DELIVERED BY AMB. MICHAEL OYUGI,
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**ON
18 SEPTEMBER, 2017**

**Madam President,
Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA,
Hon. Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
All Protocols observed**

Madam President,

I am pleased and honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kenya's delegation.

Madam President,

Let me start by congratulating you on your election as President of the 61st General Conference and also congratulate Grenada for joining the Agency in its activities.

I am proud to state that Kenya has been a Member of the IAEA since 1965 and our cooperation with the Agency continues to grow as seen in the projects being implemented in the newly signed Country Programme Framework 2017-2022 that identified 8 priority areas namely;

1. Food and agriculture
2. Human health
3. Water resources management
4. Agro-environmental management
5. Industrial applications

6. Sustainable energy development
7. Human capacity building in nuclear science and technology
8. Strengthening national radiation safety and nuclear security

Madam President,

Kenya lauds the Agency for the valuable support it continues to offer in building capacity for the human, infrastructural, institutional and regulatory framework for the nuclear power programme towards sustainable development. Energy is indeed a key enabler for the country's economic growth as highlighted in The Kenya Vision 2030 development plans. The country has therefore identified nuclear power as a suitable technology to meet its future electricity demand since it is safe, reliable and environmentally friendly.

Kenya appreciates the Agency's assistance as it continues to implement her nuclear power programme. In the last one year, the country 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 provided critical momentum in the advancement of various aspects of Kenya's nuclear power programme.

Madam President,

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 has been developed with inputs from stakeholders and is now before the relevant institutions for final approval. In addition, Kenya recognizes the importance of its ascension to the relevant international Treaties and Conventions on nuclear. In this regard, Kenya has initiated a process of ascension to the Conventions on nuclear safety.

Stakeholder participation is crucial in all phases of a nuclear power programme. In this regard, Kenya has organized several awareness forums including an international and regional nuclear energy week held in Nairobi in March 2017, at which various States and international participated. We have also undertaken to train our local media with the assistance of the IAEA and this has influenced positively, factual media coverage on nuclear related issues.

Madam President,

Cancer ranks third as a cause of death in Kenya after infectious and cardiovascular diseases. The Government is therefore committed to implementing a comprehensive national cancer control program and strengthening the capacity of both national referral as well as other health institutions to adequately manage cancer and other related diseases.

The government has committed to expand radiotherapy services to other parts of the country and is in the process of establishing additional radiotherapy and cancer treatment centers across the country with assistance from the IAEA.

Furthermore, in order to improve the cancer management infrastructure in the country, the Government has rationalized the National Health Insurance

Fund (NHIF) under Private Public Partnership (PPP). Through the subsidized health scheme, private health care facilities have significantly absorbed the patient load which has consequently eased the pressure of high demand for radiotherapy services in public institutions thereby reducing waiting time and saving many lives.

We are pleased with the assistance from the Agency through the Peaceful Uses Initiative to help equip health institutions and build human resource capacity which will eventually improve the quality of diagnosis and treatment.

Madam President,

We recognize the global effort for physical security of nuclear and radioactive materials and associated facilities. Kenya in collaboration with international partners has been carrying out activities to upgrade the physical security for facilities holding Category I and II radioactive materials. The Government has reviewed and updated the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) for Kenya and also developed a national action plan for nuclear security targeted for implementation in the next three (3) years.

With regard to nuclear safety, Kenya received IAEA Nuclear Safeguards Inspectors who carried out inspection of facilities holding nuclear materials. The Government continues to implement the recommendations given by the inspectors to improve the national nuclear safeguards regime. We have also initiated the development of an Integrated Management System (IMS) for the efficient and effective optimization of our resources which will result in improved regulatory performance.

Kenya appreciates the incredible value that sharing experiences and best practices among IAEA Member States presents. In this regard, Kenya hosted the First Regional meeting for African States on Radioactive Source Regulatory Infrastructure Development Project (RDIP) in July this year, meant to develop and improve a sound regulatory infrastructure in the African Region.

Madam President,

The Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology at the University of Nairobi, is the focal point for teaching and training on peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in the country. Kenya continues to benefit from IAEA through funding for training of personnel and procurement of scientific equipment through Technical Cooperation and related African Regional Framework Assistance (AFRA) projects.

Applications of nuclear science and technology in industry has had a great impact on Kenya's economic development. The Kenya Bureau of Standards, the national body mandated to provide standardization and conformity assessment services, has successfully developed a Strategic Business Plan (SBP) for Dosimetry and offers consultancy and Non-Destructive Testing services to companies in the country and in the region.

I am proud to state that, Kenya Bureau of Standards, in partnership with the IAEA, has managed to establish a Radiotracer laboratory to develop our national capability in this field and I wish to extend our gratitude to the Agency for granting Kenya two projects in the areas of Secondary Standard's Dosimetry and Establishment of Systems for Education,

Training, Qualification and Certification for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) in collaboration with the Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology.

Madam President

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation, has partnered with the Agency to conduct water resources assessments with a view of ensuring proper management and utilization of water resources. This is being done through the establishment and equipping of the National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory.

Madam President,

Kenya's economy is agriculture-based. The country has consistently faced challenges particularly on maize production due to increased drought spells, pests and diseases, that has threatened Kenya's staple food. To overcome these challenges, the Government has put in place mechanisms to expand the use of irrigation, improve soil productivity and water use efficiency in both crop and livestock sectors to ensure sustainable production systems against the impacts of climate change and variability on water scarcity, soil degradation and potential salinization.

Indeed, training on nuclear techniques in Agriculture through the Technical Cooperation Programme has assisted in the development of irrigation schemes, testing of insect resistant maize and cotton varieties that have been developed through use of biotechnology. In Animal production, efforts have focused on breeding new varieties of fodder to address feed challenges in the beef and milk production chains.

Madam President,

In the spirit of strengthening our national nuclear institutions to support development of nuclear science and technology, we have developed a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for National Nuclear Institutions under one of the African Regional projects to enhance relevance and sustainability for all nuclear institutions in the country.

In conclusion Mr. President, Kenya greatly appreciates the unwavering partnership and support from the Agency in the use of nuclear science and technology in the country's quest towards sustainable economic development. Indeed, we look forward to stronger partnerships in future and commit to meet all our obligations as a Member State of the IAEA.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to wish the 61st Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference success in all its deliberations.

I Thank You Madam President.