



NIGERIA'S COUNTRY STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

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TO

**THE FIFTY-NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) AT VIENNA, AUSTRIA
SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government and good people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, my delegation congratulates you on your election as the President of the 59th Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We assure you of our full support and commitment.

2. My delegation appreciates and thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban ki Moon for his message of solidarity to this Conference. We wish to commend the United Nations for its continued role and intervention in seeking solutions to the many perennial global crises and challenges. We also congratulate the newly admitted Member States of Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan and encourage them to take full advantage of the benefits membership of the Agency confers on them in the area of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. My delegation wishes to commend the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano for his statement which we acknowledge to be balanced in reporting the activities of the Agency in the past year and its focus for the coming year. We appreciate his commitment in paying priority attention to enhanced access of the global community to safe and secure nuclear energy, particularly, the renewed vigour of the Agency to support newcomer countries in their concerted efforts to deploy nuclear power for electricity generation to meet the ever increasing energy needs of Member States.

Mr. President,

4. My delegation subscribes to the view that the present global security realities have imposed additional responsibilities on the international community to ensure a sustained global nuclear security regime. In this regard, Nigeria wishes to state that the need for renewed commitment by the international community, strengthen cooperation for global nuclear security, ensuring and strengthening of the framework and global architecture for physical protection and safeguarding of nuclear materials have become even more imperative.

5. As a party that has since accented to the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), Nigeria wishes to express concern that the amendment is yet to come into force after many years of opening for ratifications. For the objectives and purpose of the CPPNM to be achieved, Nigeria calls on other countries whose ratification of the document would facilitate its entry into force to expeditiously ratify the amendment.

6. On its own, Nigeria has validated and finalized its Draft Regulations on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and Nuclear Facilities to fulfil the objects of the amended CPPNM. Consequently, Nigeria also calls for all Member States to constructively work together to detect and prevent the wrongful use of nuclear materials by non-state actors, groups and individuals.

Mr. President,

7. Consequent upon our active participation in the biennial Nuclear Security Summits since 2010, where unified commitment of the international community to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture has been amply demonstrated at the level of Heads of Governments, Nigeria, under the auspices of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), has finalized the institutional and technical framework for the establishment of a National Nuclear Security Centre (NNSC) in Abuja. In this regard, we would like to acknowledge the Agency assistance to Nigeria in organizing a two-day National Workshop on Establishing Nuclear Security Support Centre in Abuja in January, 2015. Participants at the Workshop included personnel from the national law enforcement, security and intelligence institutions, the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission.

8. The NNSC will provide the pertinent architecture to support and facilitate the development of sustainable human resources and provide technical support services for life cycle equipment management; guidance to Competent Authorities on how to develop capacity for ensuring continued effectiveness of nuclear security systems through their nuclear security assistance programmes; as

well as emplacement of the technical framework for the detection, prevention and response to nuclear security events.

9. Furthermore, for the purpose of operationalizing the declarations at the summits through the requisite global nuclear security frameworks, the important and central role of the IAEA was amply underscored by world leaders, particularly at The Hague Summit in March 2014. It is therefore our expectation that the next and final Nuclear Security Summit planned for Washington DC in March 2016 would create the practical machinery for concretizing the processes under the aegis of the Agency.

Mr. President,

10. Please, permit me to observe that a large number of African countries which are Member States of the Agency do deploy nuclear technology in various areas of application for their respective national socioeconomic development, and inherent in these activities are the key elements of adherence to high standards of nuclear and radiation safety, as well as emplacement of relevant system to ensure nuclear security. Thus, as part of a regional strategy to speedily enhance capacity in the field, Nigeria has presented a proposal to the Agency to establish an International Nuclear Security School (NSS) in the African Region. Nigeria has also indicated its interest and readiness to host the proposed NSS.

11. Nigeria's request is premised on the fact that there is strong government commitment, availability of significant capacity, both human and physical infrastructures for strengthening and sustaining an effective nuclear security regime for the protection of nuclear and other radiological materials. The newly established National Nuclear Security Centre (NNSC) at the Nuclear Technology Centre in Sheda-Abuja will soon become fully operational, and is strategically positioned to adequately support such a regional initiative.

12. In order to enhance and complement Nigeria's peaceful use of nuclear material credentials through the correct and complete declaration of all nuclear material in the Country, the Agency in collaboration with the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority,

conducted a training course on Safeguards Implementation during the Agency's Safeguards Inspection visit to Nigeria. Key elements of the course include the use of the Additional Protocol Reporter; Inventory Change Management and Reporting, as well as Physical Inventory Listing and Material Balance Management and Reporting using the requisite Codes. Additionally, the Agency has also assisted Nigeria in the review of the Draft Regulations on Nigerian System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Materials (SSAC).

Mr. President,

13. The theme of the Scientific Forum at this year's Conference, ***"Atoms in Industry - Radiation Technology for Development"*** is quite apt and of particular interest to my delegation. The focus of its primary objective on how radiation technologies contribute to many aspects of daily life, through their application in industry, with concomitant benefits on socioeconomic, health, safety and environmental components of national development, is in tandem with our national policy framework to effectively utilize radiation technology. Thus, this year's scientific forum, we believe, will offer Member States an opportunity to discuss the progress in radiation technology application and how Member States can enthrone the key element of sustainability, hinged on economic feasibility, in their national nuclear institutions to efficiently and effectively reap the benefits of irradiation technology application in industry.

Mr. President,

14. Nigeria acknowledges the central role of the Agency in promoting global nuclear safety and wish to note that while it is the responsibility of individual States to ensure nuclear, radiation, transport, environmental and waste safety, the Agency should continue to strengthen existing frameworks of cooperation with Member States as appropriate, and where necessary, enhance their national capacity to emplace the pertinent safety infrastructure and requisite regulatory processes, especially in the emerging nuclear active States.

15. In this regard, my delegation appreciates the measures being taken by the Agency to Strengthen International Cooperation in

Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, covering the major aspects of safety in the lifecycle activities of nuclear facilities and radioactive materials management, including education and training and knowledge management, as well as emergency preparedness and response and civil liability for nuclear damage.

Mr. President,

16. Noting that the existence of the pertinent radiation and environment protection infrastructure, as well as the requisite national nuclear regulatory and emergency management institutional framework would, no doubt, enhance the national commitment to the maintenance of an adequate nuclear safety regime, Nigeria has developed a robust framework for cooperation and partnership between the relevant national stakeholders and the regulatory institutions, namely; the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) (promotional agency), the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) (nuclear regulator) and the Nigerian Environmental Standards Regulation and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) (environmental regulator), as well as the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to ensure compliance with and implementation of the relevant safety requirements in the sector.

17. Consequently, the cooperation and partnership between these national institutions have resulted in the Draft National Environmental (Energy Sector) Regulations and Draft National Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Plan, both of which have been finalized and validated to adequately address the safety issues in the nascent national nuclear power programmes. Nigeria has also finalized and approved a framework for the establishment of a *National Nuclear Insurance Policy and Scheme* to adequately address the civil liability component of the emerging nuclear power industry in accordance with the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage to which Nigeria is a Party and the 1997 Protocol to the Vienna Convention. Furthermore, in consonance with its international obligations, Nigeria strictly adheres to the IAEA safety standards and has the machinery in place to ensure compliance.

18. There is no doubt that the effective implementation of nuclear safety culture by all concerned parties would serve as a good basis for the enhancement and sustainable application of nuclear technology for societal development. As recently agreed by all Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) at the Diplomatic Conference held in Vienna on 9 February, 2015, the adopted Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety further demonstrates the commitment of the international community to entrench nuclear safety best practices at all levels.

Mr. President,

19. Nigeria appreciates the effort of the Agency in the publication of the last and final report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident and would like to thank all the Member States, researchers and individuals who have contributed to its production. In spite of the circumstances, the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the Agency's guidance documents on nuclear safety are vital and would be useful to Member States in addressing the major safety issues inherent in the planning, development and management of their nuclear power projects.

20. Consequently, we would like to urge the Agency and Member States to continue to build upon these lessons learned and accelerate the progress so far made to achieve full implementation of the Agency's Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and the attendant programme of work to strengthen the global nuclear safety framework. These, we believe, would prove to be veritable points of reference to both the mature nuclear active and the newcomer Member States in preventing nuclear accidents and strengthening their national response capabilities and preparedness for nuclear emergencies to ensure a strengthened global nuclear safety regime.

Mr. President,

21. Nigeria appreciates the value of its partnership with the Agency through the Technical Cooperation programme to effectively and optimally deploy nuclear science and technology for its national socioeconomic development. Consequently and to further strengthen

the framework for cooperation, Nigeria will take relevant actions to harness the opportunities and benefits in its identified priority areas of engagement with the Agency.

22. While we continue to commend the Agency for its assistance, Nigeria wishes to re-echo and underscore the overarching need for the Agency to continue to intensify its efforts in the development of appropriate tools for education and training, and in nuclear knowledge management, to enhance the capacities of Member States to effectively plan and implement their respective, home-grown nuclear technology programmes. In this regard, it should be noted that, in order to entrench and deepen nuclear technology application and bountifully harvest its outcomes in a sustainable manner, rather than merely providing opportunities for training, the Agency should further fine-tune the framework for partnership with Member States, particularly the developing ones, to develop their national capacities and educational infrastructure to effectively train and retain professional and technical personnel. Only such a strategy can ensure continuous availability of the qualified personnel, strengthening of national infrastructure and sustainability in programme implementation.

Mr. President,

23. In line with our Country Programme Framework (CPF), Nigeria has collaborated with the agency in major areas of priorities, and chiefly among these is human health with the concomitant education and training to support sustainable programme implementation. In this regard, the partnership and assistance the Agency has provided through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) to Nigeria in upgrading our national institutions to develop human capacity and strengthen pertinent infrastructure for the early detection, control and management of cancer in the country has proved quite valuable.

24. We also thank the Agency for the coordination and effective management of the large national TC projects being implemented for the training of dozens of Nuclear Medicine, Radiotherapy and Oncology professionals, with significant funding provided by the Nigerian Government. While appreciating the Agency's effort, Nigeria recognizes that the needs in the area of cancer prevention, control and

management are particularly demanding to be fully met through technical assistance, and had taken steps to fast-track our own human capacity development efforts.

25. Consequently, through the instrumentality of the TC framework and continued guidance from the Agency, Nigeria aims to build and strengthen its national health institutions to develop training programmes for growing the critical manpower in the sector within the country. In this regard, Nigeria is currently implementing a training programme for Clinical Medical Physicists through a National Residency Programme supported by the Agency. Also, a new TC project aimed at establishing a National Post-Graduate College in Nuclear Medicine has been developed for implementation in the 2016 – 2017 TC cycle. This project, which will be domiciled at the College of Medicine and the University College Hospital of the University of Ibadan, will also have a number of other national tertiary health institutions and regulatory bodies as counterparts. It will be implemented under the general coordination of the Federal Ministry of Health. This we believe will further complement our national efforts at building the critical national capacity for cancer prevention, control and management.

Mr. President

26. My delegation notes with appreciation, the assistance the Agency continues to provide to developing Member States in strengthening their national capacities to plan and implement streamlined activities in energy planning and supporting infrastructural development for introducing nuclear power. Nigeria acknowledges the valuable support the Agency has provided to us in our national effort to train and build a competent and experienced human resource base for the successful and sustainable implementation of our Nuclear Power Programme (NPP).

Mr. President,

27. I would like to put on record that Nigeria is strongly committed to accelerating the development of her NPP and activities are being intensified to achieve the set targets with pertinent guidance from the

Agency. In this regard, I would like to express my country's profound gratitude to the Agency for successfully conducting the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) Mission for phase 2 and the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) Mission from June 15 to 26, 2015. The hosting of the INIR and EPREV Missions by Nigeria was in furtherance of our partnership with the IAEA and commitment to transparency and the desire to subject our programme implementation to external scrutiny. This is in light of the fact that Nigeria fully understands that the introduction of nuclear power into the national energy mix is an enormous task, and as a newcomer country, the successful and sustainable implementation of the programme requires the continued support of the Agency and the good will of other well-meaning development partners.

28. The INIR Mission Report, which is being finalized by the Agency Team lead by the Deputy Director-General for Nuclear Energy, will be submitted to our national authorities later in the year. It is our expectation that the lessons to be learned from the conclusion and recommendations of the INIR mission report will be used as a feedback and would further enhance adherence to international best practices in programme implementation, and optimally channeling all relevant inputs for the building of the critical national nuclear power infrastructure, in a timely and sustainable manner.

Mr. President,

29. While we continue to applaud the good works of the Agency in stimulating socioeconomic development in Member States through proper application of nuclear technology, we must take cognizance of the fact that the benefits of the application of nuclear science and technology can only be effectively and optimally realized in a world community that is at peace with itself. It is in this regard that Nigeria welcomes the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on July 14, 2015, between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1, and the attendant Roadmap for its implementation between the Agency and Iran. By its persistence and supportive action towards the actualization of this Agreement, the Agency has further amply demonstrated its commitment to partnering

with Member States, through technology and effective diplomacy, for the gainful and peaceful use of nuclear energy while putting adequate structures in place to prevent non-peaceful applications.

30. In the same vein, my delegation would like to reiterate and underscore the cardinal point that, like many other peace loving Member States of the Agency, Nigeria wishes to express its deep concern over the slow pace of global commitment towards a world free of nuclear weapons. We must in our various actions, redouble our efforts to reinforce the key role of the IAEA and its commitment to **"work for a world free of all nuclear weapons"**.

31. In this regard, my delegation in re-echoing our position as a committed signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Pelindaba, would like to urge Member States to rededicate themselves to the positive consideration for the establishment of **"Nuclear Weapons Free Zones"** in all regions of the world. It may take time, but with conviction, persistence and the collective commitment of all Member States, it is achievable.

32. In concluding, Mr. President, I would like to commend the continued commitment of the Agency in leading the global efforts to efficiently harness cutting-edge research and innovation for the effective application of nuclear science and technology for societal development, while affirming its resolve to the establishment and strengthening of a global framework for the enthronelement of and adherence to nuclear safety and security.

33. Nigeria deeply appreciates the assistance and support we continue to receive from the Agency in the effective application of nuclear technology for its sustainable national socioeconomic development and hope that the bond of partnership with the Agency will be further strengthened in the coming years. We would also like to thank the staff of the Agency for the good work in ensuring the strengthening of the cooperation and partnership, while ensuring enhanced service delivery to the Member States.

34. I thank you, Mr. President.