

**Statement of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to
the 62nd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference**

Delivered by:

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Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates of the 62nd IAEA General Conference,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank the outgoing President, Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson, the Philippine's Ambassador and Resident Representative to the international organizations in Vienna who guided us proficiently during the General Conference that lies behind us. At the same time, I wish to congratulate Marta Žiaková, the president, up on her undisputed election to the presidency of this year's (62nd) Regular Session of the General Conference. My delegation will pledge you full support and we are more than confident that the conference will conclude successfully under your leadership.

Madam President,

The Ethiopian delegation wish to express our deep appreciation for the IAEA Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano for his high quality leadership for the past years and also wish him a fast recovery. We believe that under his outstanding leadership the IAEA will

continue to fulfil its role as a catalyst for the development of nuclear technology for socioeconomic growth, particularly for developing countries including my country Ethiopia. I would also like to assure the Director General that my country will fully cooperate and support his efforts towards achieving the objectives of the Agency to Promote and transfer nuclear technologies for safe and peaceful applications.

The fact that the international community has set out on a critical journey three years ago pledging to achieve sustainable development and eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 is testimony to our collective efforts of building a more prosperous and peaceful world.

Madam President,

As one of the fastest growing economies, development of science and technology is critical for Ethiopia to attain its plan of graduating to a middle-income country in 2020. Ethiopia is undertaking the daunting task of sustaining our hard-fought development gains on one hand and implementing the SDGs which we have been mainstreamed in our national development plan on

the other. It goes without saying therefore that the development of the sector is critical, among other things, to both developing our industrial base and ensuring sustainable development and realising our smooth march to next Economic ladder.

Madam President,

Ethiopia has put in place legal and institutional mechanisms that deal with registration and licensing of all activities involving nuclear safety and security. The Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority is the competent institution, which controls the use of ionizing radiation and other related practices. Radiation safety regulatory framework and activities against the relevant IAEA safety standards was reviewed by the IAEA **Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS)** mission. This enable to make regulatory improvements in Ethiopia utilizing the knowledge gained and experiences shared from the IRRS reviewers and the evaluation of the Ethiopia regulatory framework for radiation safety, including its good practices.

My Government attaches great importance to the mandate of and functions of entrusted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in enhancing the peaceful use and application of nuclear

energy and other technology for member states and its continuous effort to properly implement the international Safeguards regime.

Madam President,

In our efforts to realise our transformation agenda on the premise that peaceful application of nuclear science and technology helps achieve socio-economic development objectives, we in Ethiopia have attached paramount importance for the development of science, technology and innovation. And the Agency has been our development partner in various areas supporting the sector. My country has been involved in a number of national, regional and interregional projects that apply nuclear techniques to address various socio-economic development problems in the areas of agriculture, human health, water resources management, industry and radiation protection safety and security. We have benefited from the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy and other activities, and we have begun to see real progress in the expansion of diagnostic and therapeutic services at Federal and Regional states.

We are proud to collaborate with the IAEA in one of the flag ship projects in making a large farmland free of tsetse fly thereby improving crop and livestock production. In fact, we believe this is one area where we can share our best practices to other African and LDCs.

Furthermore, as part of the Government's efforts to ensure human capital development, IAEA has been a true partner in supporting the sector's need of trained and skilled manpower through fellowships and training programmes. Nuclear medicine, radio therapy technology, radio pharmacy and radiation protection safety and security are some of the areas where the Agency's support has become increasingly important thereby making the impossible possible.

Madam President,

On May 2018, the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres renewed the universal Disarmament Agenda in pursuit of a safer, more secure world and to protect people from harm. Ethiopia has held and always maintained a long-standing position regarding total elimination of nuclear weapons to achieve a nuclear-

weapon-free world. This long-standing position stems for the fact that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and, peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. Ethiopia, therefore, calls all concerned parties to realize the sense of urgency of embarking upon a constructive negotiation leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, within a specified period of time. This includes prohibiting their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use. Ethiopia also calls for all state parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to work towards total elimination of nuclear arsenals as part of their commitment to article VI of the Treaty.

Ethiopia believes that atomic energy should be used only for peaceful purposes. Ethiopia calls IAEA to strengthen its safeguards and verification function mandated by the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Madam President,

My delegation has come with good news of peace today. A sudden peace deal was made between Ethiopia and Eritrea *without*

involvement the third party. The two countries in the Horn of Africa have taken steps to bridge historical divides and erase animosities of more than two decades. The two countries are now in peace and have agreed to restore diplomatic relations; Embassies of the two countries are re-opened, trade and transportation links are already resumed.

Finally, my delegation wishes to thank once again all officials and staff members of the IAEA for their dedication and hard work to strengthen technical cooperation between the Agency and Ethiopia. I also reaffirm my Government's commitment to fully cooperate with the Agency in its activities to promote peaceful and safe applications of nuclear technology.

Thank you for patient hearing.

Shumete G. (PhD)
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