



**62<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE:**  
**17 – 21 SEPTEMBER, 2018, VIENNA**

**GHANA'S STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. PROF. KWABENA**  
**FRIMPONG-BOATENG – MINISTER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,**  
**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT THE 62<sup>ND</sup> REGULAR**  
**SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA,**  
**AUSTRIA FROM 17<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**Madam President,**

**Acting Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,**  
**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Ghana delegation joins other speakers, to warmly congratulate you and your bureau on your election to lead this session. We commend you and your bureau for the professional conduct of this meeting, so far, and assure you of our full support and cooperation. Ghana joins previous speakers to wish the Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano speedy recovery.

**Madam President,**

Ghana continues to collaborate with the IAEA in nuclear applications including human resource capacity development and training of nuclear scientists and engineers. Ghana signed a Practical Arrangement with the (IAEA) for a three (3) year period in September 2012 which has been renewed for another three (3) years, until 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 and will be renewed for another three year term. The implementation of this initiative has been ongoing at the School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences (SNAS). Currently, the School is an African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) Regional Designation Centre (RDC) for three programmes, namely; i) Master's degree in Nuclear Science and Technology, ii) Medical Physics Education and iii) Postgraduate Educational Course (PGEC) in Radiation Protection and Safety of Radiation Sources. The School has since its establishment in 2006 graduated 121 PGEC fellows, 377 Master's degree students and 26 PhD students from thirty (30) African countries including Ghana. It is also gratifying to note that the fellows and alumni of the School have and continue to constitute the core personnel to preserve and expand nuclear knowledge in their respective countries.

The Ghana Government is committed to introducing nuclear power into the country's energy mix and appreciates the technical support the IAEA has provided to Ghana, through the Technical

Cooperation and Nuclear Energy Departments. Following the Phase 1 Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) Mission held in Ghana in January 2017, the country has worked at implementing the recommendations given during the Mission. The Ghana Nuclear Power Programme Organization (GNPPO) is currently putting together the Nuclear Programme Comprehensive Report based on all the Phase 1 studies conducted, and will be submitted to the Government to enable the country make the needed commitment to the programme. Initial desk and field studies for the nuclear power plants site have been completed and several potential sites identified. Further screening work is on going to obtain candidate sites by the end of year.

**Madam President,**

Ghana, in recognition of the importance of the safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, acceded to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) in May 2011. During the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties this year, the following areas of good performance were recognized:

- Safe removal and handling of the HEU core from Ghana Research Reactor during conversion to LEU with international cooperation, and using operational experience to establish the international Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) training facility to train MNSR users on core conversion;
- Adoption of the Borehole Disposal concept for the timely management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources and starting the process of its implementation;
- Creation of a regulatory framework, including the independence of the regulatory body from the promotion organization.

The International MNSR Training Centre, which was constructed with funds from US-DOE, is also being used to train our Nigerian counterparts for their MNSR Conversion.

**Madam President,**

The Government of Ghana, through the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) is implementing the Borehole Disposal System (BDS). The proposed site has been fully characterized to demonstrate its suitability. The draft safety case, post closure safety assessment (PCSA) and BDS engineering design document for implementation of the BDS have been reviewed.

The European Commission has approved the provision of support to The Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) through the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), and staff are currently benefiting from training sessions organized by the European Nuclear Safety Training and Tutoring Institute (ENSTTI).

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, through the International Regulatory Development Program (IRDP), has been assisting with training of staff of the NRA. The US-Department of Energy, through the International Safeguards Engagement Programme (INSEP), International Nuclear Security (INS) and Office of Radiological Security (ORS) have continued to support the development of the regulatory framework in Ghana.

**Madam President,**

I would like to conclude by assuring you of Ghana's continued collaboration with the IAEA in the field of peaceful application of Nuclear Energy.

Thank you.