

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



RWANDA STATEMENT
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA),
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

DELIVERED BY PATRICK NYIRISHEMA
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RWANDA UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (RURA)

Madame President,

Hon. Ministers,

Acting Director General,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Rwanda delegation, I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madame Ambassador Alicia BUENROSTRO MASSIEU, on your election as the President of this year's Regular General Conference. I have no doubt that this Conference will be a success under your able leadership, and you have the full support of our delegation.

We also take this opportunity to remember and honour the late Director General of the IAEA, late Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his dedication to peaceful nuclear programme, integrity and hard work during his tenure at the helm of the Agency.

Also, let me express my sincere condolences to the Government of South Africa and the family of Ms Bavelile Hlongwa, former Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy for the sudden death occur before coming to this Conference.

Madame President,

Rwanda continues to view nuclear safety with utmost importance and appreciate the continued support by the Agency which is aimed at strengthening the effective implementation of our CPF 2017-2021 towards leveraging Nuclear technologies for development, in areas such as agriculture and healthcare, among others.

Rwanda further recognises the importance of preventing the unauthorised use of nuclear material and nuclear technology. As a member State who only recently embarked on this journey, we thank IAEA for providing the expertise to establish, maintain and review our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP); and for the continued support to strengthen our infrastructure and human capacity towards this endeavour.

Madame President, Distinguished ladies and gentlemen;

Rwanda has started the journey to have a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework, and currently we look forward to incorporate provisions for nuclear safety, security, safeguards and nuclear liability into our existing legal framework. This goes concurrently with the effort to accede to relevant international nuclear instruments, the recent one being the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage deposited during this Conference.

We greatly commend the Agency's role of supporting us to achieve this, and equally recognise the importance of regional and international cooperation in regulatory control to ensure radiation protection and nuclear security and safety.

Rwanda appreciates the Agency's invaluable contribution in promoting nuclear technology for peaceful uses. With this view, the Government of Rwanda has initiated plans to establish a Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology (CNST) within the National Strategy for Transformation in the next five years. With that, the Government has sought technical support from the Agency to accompany these efforts, to ensure that we apply the highest nuclear safety standards and the best practices in utilizing nuclear technologies for development.

In conclusion Madam President, the global efforts towards nuclear security and the commitment of the Agency, as well as Member States towards more effective worldwide nuclear security is commendable.

Rwanda recognises and fully supports the IAEA central role in enhancing and strengthening nuclear security. Together with all Member States, we look forward to contributing to these continuing efforts towards nuclear safety and security, both in the present and the future.

I thank you all for your attention!