

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA – NATIONAL STATEMENT
GENERAL CONFERENCE 64



Mr President, Ambassador Farhane

Director General Grossi

Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation

Distinguished Delegates

South Africa reiterated its commitment and strong support to the Technical Cooperation Programme and I am therefore pleased to announce that South Africa is pledging an amount of Two Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand Euros (€234 000) to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2021. South Africa will also continue to implement the Country's Programme Framework, which has enabled us, with assistance of the IAEA, to launch four (4) new Technical Cooperation projects, in the areas of Agriculture, Health and Safety.

We need to continue contesting the space for nuclear as clean energy technology. In the energy debate scientific evidence is there to support our prescription.

We welcome this year's theme for the Scientific Forum "*Nuclear Power and Clean Energy Transition*". As a country we continue to see an ever increasing role for nuclear power to embark on the clean energy transition whilst expanding our power sources. In order to ensure energy security and to mitigate the carbon footprint, nuclear power will continue to play a pivotal role in South Africa's energy mix.

In implementing our Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2019-2030, South Africa has already commenced consultations with suppliers of nuclear power reactors to provide costing and schedule information and possible ownership models, through the Request for Information for the 2500MW programme issued in June 2020.

As part of the current Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), it was decided that the operational life of Koeberg Nuclear Power Station must be extended by another 20 years and we have started the necessary technical and regulatory work. I am grateful for the IAEA's support of this undertaking through the Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation Missions on the Koeberg Nuclear Power Station Plant, with the most recent pre-mission taking place in September 2019. Koeberg remains one of our most reliable, efficient, safe and affordable power stations on our electricity grid.

Mr President,

Despite the logistical challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic we are starting to see increased access to offshore markets for the supply of medical isotopes that are critically important products to the rest of the world.

Another key project that South Africa has embarked on, is the imminent upgrading of our aging nuclear research reactor, SAFARI-1. Since establishing a Ministerial Task Team in 2019 to develop a replacement by 2030, we have already approved the Project Initiation Report, which recommends SAFARI-1 be replaced with a Multi-Purpose Reactor. The project has advanced to the pre-feasibility stage.

In conclusion, this year when we have marked the 75th Anniversary of two dark days in our history, namely the only two Atomic bombs ever used in August 1945. We therefore must reiterate South Africa's unwavering and principled position that Nuclear Weapons and all Weapons of Mass Destruction should be eliminated from the earth.

With this, Mr President, I would like to reiterate our best wishes for you and all participating Member States, well with the Conference, which we are sure will be a success under your leadership and I hope that in the next conference we'll be able to meet face to face and be able to network in a venue where we can all come together and talk to each other.

Thank you very much.