

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**DELIVERED AT THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY**  
*IAEA headquarters, Vienna, Austria 20 -24 May 2024*

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**CONFERENCE THEME: "SHAPING THE FUTURE"**

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**Thank you, distinguished co-chairs, for giving me the floor.**

A number of countries are implementing nuclear power programme, due to the increasing recognition of nuclear energy as a source of clean energy and a means of achieving our net zero objectives. Many others are using nuclear energy techniques and applications in addressing global challenges as it relates to health, agriculture, and the environment, among others. These developments and more importantly, the current geopolitical situation require that we pay particular attention to the security of nuclear and radioactive materials. This year's ICONS which once again, highlights the importance of nuclear security in safeguarding global peace, stability, and prosperity, is therefore pertinent.

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Ghana reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the implementation of key international nuclear security legal instruments and initiatives, including the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment (CPPNM/A), and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. We recognize these instruments as indispensable tools in providing a framework for cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among nations in our shared

commitment to nuclear security. Adherence to these instruments is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and mutual trust among nations.

Ghana acknowledges the significant strides we have collectively made to enhance nuclear security worldwide. However, we remain conscious of the evolving challenges that demand our sustained vigilance and cooperation.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Nuclear security is a national responsibility and in this regard, Ghana has dedicated its resources to promoting a culture of nuclear security interconnected and interfaced with nuclear safety and safeguards within its borders. We recognize the dual nature of nuclear technology, which presents both opportunities for development purposes and risks if not managed properly.

As a responsible member of the international community, Ghana is committed to upholding the highest standards of nuclear security. We acknowledge that nuclear security in a State rests entirely on that state. However, effective nuclear security is a global obligation that requires concerted efforts and collaboration among nations.

In line with our commitment to nuclear security, Ghana has taken several proactive measures, including through:

- i. **Strengthening our Legislative Framework:** Ghana's Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) has been established by an Act of Parliament as an independent regulator of all uses of nuclear and radioactive materials, their associated facilities and activities to assure stakeholders of nuclear security. This empowers the NRA to license, inspect, enforce and establish regulations and guides aimed at ensuring the safe and secure use of nuclear and

radioactive materials. Currently, the NRA has developed regulations on security covering: nuclear and other radioactive materials in use, storage and transport, as well as physical protection of nuclear material. We will continuously review and update the legal framework and laws to align with international best practices in order to deal with current and emerging threats.

- ii. **Capacity Building and Training:** We prioritize the training of personnel involved in nuclear activities to ensure they possess the requisite knowledge, skills and competencies to handle these materials safely and securely. The School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences of the University of Ghana has not only trained human resources for the nuclear industry in Ghana, but currently serves as a Designated Regional Centre for Education and Training in nuclear sciences. In 2023, Ghana hosted the US Department of Energy's, National Nuclear Security Administration's Regional Nuclear Security Exercise Development Workshop for Ghana and Nigeria. Additionally, Ghana participated in the IAEA Regional Workshop to Coordinate the Implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) held in Lome, Togo from 21 – 25 August 2023, during which recommendations were made to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to facilitate implementation of INSSPs in the West Africa Sub-region. A Regional Workshop on Conducting Transport Security Inspections was also hosted by Ghana in Accra from 2 – 5 October 2023.
- iii. **Raising Public Awareness and Outreach:** We believe that raising public awareness about the importance of nuclear security is crucial. Through educational programmes and outreach initiatives, we empower our citizens to first become aware of the subject and to be active promoters of nuclear safety

and security. In May 2023, for example, a major Public Forum on Nuclear Power Infrastructure Development was held in Accra, with the collaboration of experts from Japan. The event was used to engage members of the public and other stakeholders on a broad spectrum of aspects of the nation's nascent nuclear power programme, including the nuclear security aspects.

- iv. **International Cooperation:** Ghana actively engages in international partnerships and collaborations to enhance our nuclear security capabilities. We recognize the importance of information sharing, technical assistance, and joint exercises in strengthening global nuclear security architecture. We also recognize the immense contribution and technical cooperation of the IAEA in shaping and building our nuclear security regime. Ghana for instance received training and assistance in Nuclear Security for Major Public Events from the IAEA prior to the hosting of the 13<sup>th</sup> All African Games held in Ghana in March 2024.

### **Distinguished Co-Chairs,**

Looking ahead, Ghana would like to emphasize the following priorities in shaping the future of nuclear security:

- i. **Enhanced Multilateralism:** We call for strengthened international cooperation and coordination in addressing emerging nuclear security challenges. Collaboration among States, international organizations, regional blocs and other stakeholders is essential to effectively mitigate nuclear security threats. To this end, we call for increased support for the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) to address some of the nuclear security challenges that are unique to the African continent. Furthermore, we

call for parties to ratify and implement the provisions of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) which although focuses on nuclear non-proliferation, could have nuclear security benefits if properly adhered to.

- ii. **Technological Innovation:** Ghana recognizes the role of technological advancements in improving nuclear security measures - especially considering the fast integration of machine (artificial intelligence (AI)) and human capabilities in this field. Therefore, we encourage investment in research and development to deploy innovative solutions for safeguarding nuclear materials and facilities. While we encourage innovation, we are also mindful of the threat posed by counterfeit and fraudulent technological items that can enter the nuclear supply chain to negate our efforts. Thus, we must collectively work to limit the impact of Counterfeit, Fraudulent and Suspect Items (CFSI) in the nuclear industry.
- iii. **Complementarity of Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards:** We support initiatives and programmes that seek to highlight the synergy between nuclear safety, security and safeguards (3S's) working in tandem within the context of sustainability. This will help us derive maximum benefits from nuclear and other radioactive materials while minimizing their potential harmful effects in their entire life cycle; from cradle to grave.
- iv. **Comprehensive Approach:** Ghana advocates for a holistic approach to nuclear security implementation which involves commensurate attention and resources to *prevention, detection, and response*. Through our National Nuclear Security Committee, we have sought to create collaboration and understanding between

various State Agencies with roles in the national nuclear security architecture. By addressing the entire nuclear security spectrum, and encouraging regular communication between and among stakeholders, we can better anticipate and mitigate potential threats and risks.

- v. **Continuous Professional Development:** To ensure nuclear security, technicians must be knowledgeable, skilled and possess the right attitude. This calls for continuous professional development for all, with special affirmative action for women in this regard. We therefore propose improved funding and technical support for nuclear security capacity building programmes especially in newcomer countries embarking on nuclear power programmes like Ghana. We are poised to take full advantage of all capacity building opportunities offered by the IAEA and our development partners in the area of nuclear security and call for experts to assist us in curricula development to make nuclear security an integral part of all academic training in the nuclear sciences in Ghana.

### **Finally, Co-Chairs,**

An ineffective nuclear security system anywhere in the world presents vulnerabilities everywhere. Ghana thus reaffirms its commitment to promoting nuclear security within its borders and would like to assure everyone of our continued support for attaining improved nuclear security globally within the framework of the IAEA. We call upon the international community to join hands in shaping a safer and more secure future for all. Let us work together with determination and resolve to ensure that nuclear technology continues to serve humanity's peaceful aspirations and the sustainable development goals.

Thank you for your attention.