

Country Statement of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to be delivered by the Director General, Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA), at the Ministerial Segment of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: SHAPING THE FUTURE, 20 – 24 MAY 2024.

Mr. President

Nigeria is delighted to participate in this 2024 International Conference on Nuclear Security, and would like to place on record, our continuing support for this process. I would also like to express our gratitude to the Resident Representatives of Australia and Kazakhstan, the co-chairs of the preparatory process who are also co-presidents of the Conference for their hard work and leadership.

2. It is our expectation that the outcomes of this important Conference would further strengthen the international Nuclear Security framework within individual Member States. We welcome the statement of the Co-Presidents and we hope that its contents would assist in advancing the IAEA's work especially the next Nuclear Security Plan.

Mr. President

3. Nigeria remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of her citizens and the global community. We reaffirm our dedication to robust measures for nuclear security, recognizing the unique challenges posed by nuclear and other radioactive material and technologies, despite their usefulness. It is therefore imperative to address these challenges with a sense of responsibility.

4. The emerging and evolving security threats have culminated to make our nuclear security multifaceted. It encompasses the acknowledgment of state responsibility, stringent legislative and regulatory frameworks, comprehensive threat and risk assessments and international cooperation. We employ a risk-informed approach; prioritize proactive planning, preparedness, and response strategies to effectively address nuclear security events should they occur. Central to our approach is the concept of

sustainability, ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of the nuclear security regime which makes this conference even more relevant.

5. In our pursuit of nuclear security, we acknowledge the critical role of international cooperation and collaboration. We actively engage with global partners to exchange best practices, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and enhance technical capabilities. Initiatives such as the Nuclear Security Summits, Conferences, Awareness Meetings, and partnerships with international organizations like the IAEA are integral to building a more secure and resilient nuclear security landscape in our country.

6. We remain committed and aligned to the highest standards of physical protection, control, and accounting of nuclear materials, facilities, activities, and equipment as dictated by the IAEA and other international requirements. Proactive measures are essential to prevent unauthorized access to and sabotage of nuclear and other radioactive materials, as well as illicit trafficking. To this end, Nigeria has developed its nuclear security architecture to include National threat and risk assessment, as well as insider threat mitigation program. We invest in detection and monitoring capabilities, alongside robust intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms in collaboration with the IAEA and other international partners.

7. The support of the IAEA and other international partners has been integral for the upgrade of the physical security at several centres including the Nigeria Research Reactor-1 (NIRR-1) facility at the Centre for Energy Research and Training, Zaria, and for the successful conversion of the reactor core from using highly enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

8. To prioritize and promote a viable nuclear security culture through education, training and awareness raising initiatives, institutions such as the national nuclear security support center have been established to foster strong security culture among all

stakeholders including government agencies, industry partners, research institutions, and civil society organizations.

Mr. President

9. Nigeria is participating in the IAEA multi-regional project on Enhancing Nuclear Security through the Sustainable Management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources (DSRS Project). Under the DSRS project, Nigeria hosted the IAEA Expert Mission on the review of existing information on National Inventories of Category 1 and 2 Radioactive Sources in 2022 and 'IAEA inter-Regional Workshop on the Development of National Policies and Strategies for the Management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources in 2023'. As an outcome of this Mission and Inter-Regional Workshop, Nigeria is reviewing her national nuclear and radioactive waste management policy and strategy to incorporate the management of disused radioactive sources. Nigeria is also developing national response framework for managing response to criminal or intentional unauthorized Act involving material out of regulatory control (MORC).

10. Nigeria was honored to co-chair alongside Switzerland, the first review conference of the amended convention on physical protection of nuclear materials (A/CPPNM) in 2022 and we remain pleased with the outcome of that maiden conference. For this reason, Nigeria has since domesticated the provisions of the A/CPPNM in the Nigerian Physical Protection of Nuclear materials and facilities Regulation. The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) has also been domesticated in the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022.

11. We particularly welcome the conclusion that, "in the light of the prevailing situation, the Convention as amended is adequate as concerns the preamble, the whole of the operative part and the annexes," and we look forward to the 2nd Review to be subsequently convened by the DG in his capacity as depository. Remaining committed to the universalization of the convention,

we welcome all states that recently became parties and call on others who are not yet parties to consider doing so.

12. In conclusion, we affirm our unwavering commitment to nuclear security and our support for the IAEA nuclear security program. By prioritizing prevention, fostering a culture of security, and collaborating with our partners, we will continue to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and safeguard our shared future.

13. I thank you, Mr. President and I assure the Secretariat and the Director General, Nigeria's continued support.