



**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF ENERGY  
AND POWER DEVELOPMENT,**

**HONOURABLE EDGAR MOYO**

**68<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
(IAEA)**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

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**Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I join others who have spoken before me in congratulating you, Mr. President, and the members of your bureau for your election to guide the work of the 68<sup>th</sup> General Conference. My delegation pledges its full support and cooperation within the Vienna spirit.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome the Director General's presentation of the IAEA Annual Report, and in that regard commend him and the Secretariat more broadly for the outstanding work and commitment to the cause of safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. My delegation welcomes the Agency's continued drive to transfer nuclear technology and promote sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries to enhance their capabilities and enable them to benefit more from peaceful uses of nuclear technology and applications.

**Mr. President**

The Government of Zimbabwe values the profound contribution of nuclear science and technology in socio-economic development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that regard, Zimbabwe desires an increase in their application as the country pursues its national Vision 2030 "towards an upper-middle income society", which is anchored on, among others, increased agricultural and industrial productivity, enhanced mineral

beneficiation and value addition, and access to clean and sustainable energy, consistent with the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The theme of the Scientific Forum this year "*Atoms4Food – Better Agriculture for Better Life*" is timely and resonates with Zimbabwe's national and regional priorities in the midst of the El-Nino induced drought. Adoption of nuclear techniques remains a feasible strategy towards enhancing productivity and addressing the country's food security challenges.

The steady increase in the uptake of nuclear science and technologies in my country dovetails with the mission of the Agency. Accordingly, Zimbabwe seeks to robustly venture into more beneficial and advanced nuclear applications that include power generation. It is with urgency, that we need to respond to the unpredictable climatic conditions that have rendered the previously reliable hydropower generation option, untenable. Zimbabwe is keenly following developments in the technologies, particularly Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to guide its policies and decision making going forward.

I reaffirm my government's commitment to international cooperation and global nuclear safety and security. Pursuant to Zimbabwe's ratification of several IAEA international instruments in 2023, my Government is now seized with domesticating and enhancing their implementation frameworks. It is in this context that

Zimbabwe will be hosting an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) Mission in November 2024, and we eagerly await the recommendations therefrom.

**Mr. President,**

My delegation is grateful for the continued support offered by the Agency through the Technical Cooperation and Nuclear Security Funds, and on our part, we will ensure the sustainability of these interventions. I assure you of Zimbabwe's commitment to meeting its obligations with respect to the Technical Cooperation Fund, the National Participation Costs (NPCs) and the regular budget - all of which are critical enablers of the technical cooperation pillar, and the overall smooth functioning of the Agency.

In the same vein, I would like to applaud the Director General and his staff for their tireless efforts in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources, as well as securing critical partnerships for the TC programmes.

Through the TC Programme, Zimbabwe has registered successes in key areas, among them, mutation breeding where a mutant cowpea variety - CBC5 that is ideal for drought prone areas, was developed; the creation of a national soil information system to guide crop selection; and the promotion of small-scale drip irrigation technology to enhance fertilizer and water use in the smallholder sector.

On human health, my government remains committed to fighting the rising cancer burden, and the recent resuscitation of radiotherapy services in public hospitals will go a long way in that regard. We welcome the efforts by the Secretariat to expand and broaden the implementation of the Rays of Hope Initiative which will further strengthen our capacities to respond effectively to the cancer emergency in a more sustainable manner.

### **Mr. President**

In August 2024, Zimbabwe successfully hosted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit in Harare. My Government expresses profound gratitude for the support extended by the Agency through an equipment loan arrangement and training of nuclear security frontline officers for this major public event. We have been inspired to mobilize resources to further advance our national detection and response capabilities in the future.

As I conclude, allow me to, once again, thank the IAEA for the support rendered to my country through the technical cooperation pillar. My delegation urges the Agency to continue deploying its expertise and knowledge, together with partners, in addressing the complex challenges which confront our modern world.

I thank you Mr. President