



NATIONAL STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**THE AG. CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
& IAEA NATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER FOR NIGERIA**

AT THE

**IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLICATIONS AND THE TECHNICAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

IN

VIENNA, AUSTRIA FROM 26TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024

DELIVERED ON

.....NOVEMBER 2024

Mr. President,

At the outset I would like to on behalf of the Nigeria delegation congratulate you for assuming the leadership of this Ministerial Conference and assure of Nigeria's Support. I also thank the Director General, of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi for his comprehensive briefing and the concept note provided to guide the work of this Conference.

2. The choice of the topic for this year's Conference relating to the role of nuclear science and technology in addressing some of the challenges we face today, including health, food security and safety, water resource management and climate change is indeed timely and cannot be overemphasized.

3. We recall that this august assembly had in 2018 Declaration requested the IAEA to intensify its efforts to support Member States in identified areas of interest, in particular, through its Technical Cooperation Programme. We are pleased to note the progress in the efforts of IAEA pursuant to this onerous task. The Office of Internal Oversight Services report regarding the Evaluation of the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Activities in 2024 and the Report of the DG on the Agency's Proposed Programme for 2025 as considered by the Board of Governors last week are strong testament. We do hope that the cross-cutting initiatives launched by the IAEA relating to Atoms4Food, NUTEC Plastics, and ZODIAC represent the needed response to these challenges associated with the changing global environment. There is the urgent need for concerted action towards the realization of these initiatives among member states.

4. It is instructive to note that Nigeria has signed its 4th Country Programme Framework document for 2024 to 2029 highlighting key priority areas. The ongoing implementation of these priorities takes center stage in the renewed hope agenda of the present administration in the country. DG Grossi, your visit to Abuja in May this year to participate in the High Level Seminar on Promoting Cancer Awareness and Advocacy Programmes, and the opportunity to engage with senior government Officials in the country marked another watershed in our partnership. I commend you for that effort. Other key activities that took place in the country during the year and in conjunction with IAEA included:

- i. Conduct of a successful imPACT Review Mission which outcome will complement the country's cancer control capacities and provide response to the current cancer burden;
- ii. hosting of IAEA Regional Training Course on Occupational Radiation Protection within the framework of IAEA Technical Cooperation project RAF9070 on Enhancing the Radiation Safety and Infrastructure;
- iii. hosting in Abuja the Site and External Events Design (SEED) Workshop on Site Evaluation Review for Nuclear Installations, among other things.

Mr. President,

5. In conclusion, Nigeria believes in the objectives of this Conference, and is confident that this event will provide Africa and the global community the opportunity of a high level engagement aimed at finding solutions to the challenges that have continued to hinder regional commitments and our collective global resolve for the attainment of AU Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and the global net-zero by 2050.

I thank you.