



# African Commission on Nuclear Energy

**Building 6. Princeton Office Park, 8 Olievenhoutbosch Street,  
Highveld Techno Park, Centurion, Pretoria South Africa, 0157**

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- Your Excellency, Mr. President of the 69<sup>TH</sup> IAEA General Conference
- Your Excellencies heads of delegations,
- Your Excellency, Amb. Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Distinguished Delegates,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON), I would like to congratulate you, M. President, on your election as the President of the Sixty-Ninth IAEA General Conference. We assure you of our unwavering support towards accomplishing your mandate.

Consequently, we extend our sincere gratitude to H.E. Ambassador Rafael Grossi and the IAEA Secretariat for consistent support to Member States in utilizing nuclear energy and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

I am delighted to inform you that the AFCON successfully held its Sixth Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Pelindaba Treaty on 24-25 October 2024 in Addis-Ababa. The CSP affirmed the AFCON dedication in fulfilling its responsibility as outlined in the Pelindaba treaty. To effectively realize the vision of AFCON, the CSP resolved the dismissal of the former AFCON Executive Secretary.

In this regards, a new interim Executive Secretary has been appointed.

Mr. President,

On the other side, I am pleased to inform you that the 16th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty was commemorated on 30th July 2025. The celebration marked a decade of promoting nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear disarmament, coordination of nuclear energy and applications across the Africa continent for peaceful purposes.

AFCON stands proud as the custodian of the Pelindaba Treaty, which is Africa's Pride and a major milestone for promoting peace, security and nuclear technological development in Africa.

Mr. President,

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation is a key priority of the African Continental Agenda to enhance regional and global security. While most African Member States have ratified global and continental instruments, there is need to address implementation gaps, contributed by limited human expertise and financial resources dedicated to implementation.



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In furtherance of this goal, AFCON in July 2025, working alongside the African Union Commission (AUC) engaged African Member States in Addis Ababa, in raising awareness in meeting their obligations relating to regional and global instruments concerning nuclear Weapons.

Additionally, AFCON alongside African Union (AU) in July 2025, launched an “African Fellowship Program in Disarmament and Non-Proliferation”, to increase the knowledge and skills in arms control, Diplomatic negotiation and peaceful use of nuclear technology. The program will serve as a platform for training and capacity building for experts, policy makers and diplomats.

Mr. President,

African continent is experiencing increase interest and activities in nuclear applications, driven by energy security needs and potential for sustainable development. To benefit from nuclear technology, African Member States must demonstrate commitment for effective nuclear regulatory controls and safeguards.

Therefore, in pursuit of establishing and improving nuclear safeguards in the Africa region, AFCON is delighted to report that it is currently implementing nuclear material accounting and control systems for African Member States, with the help of European Union and the Republic of Finland. The training program will address sustainability of African states in attaining critical pre-requisites component of the international security framework.

Mr. President,

African development can be significantly advanced by nuclear science and technology, with vital applications opportunities available in healthcare, agriculture, food security, energy and industrial applications.

In this regard, AFCON collaborates with IAEA to support African Member States leverage on nuclear science and technology for sustainable development, focusing on capacity building, knowledge sharing and project implementation.

We are pleased to inform you that AFCON collaborative efforts with IAEA is already bearing fruits. In 2025, IAEA supported AFCON with specialized work force, planning and modeling tools to support programs in nuclear energy, safeguards, nuclear science and technology.

Mr. President,

African representation in nuclear science and technology is unevenly distributed, with women and youth significantly under-represented.

Alongside with Women in Nuclear Africa (WINS), and the African Young generation in nuclear, AFCON is engaged to provide a platform for dialogue and collaboration for both Women and youth to increase the level of representation in the nuclear industry in Africa.



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In conclusion, M. President,

In this particular time of history where nations are shaken with wars and conflicts, where tensions are rising everywhere and daily, AFCONE continues to stand on the values of peace and believes that peace is possible and can be pursued by all of us.

Mr. President,

A great leadership is marked on the impact and quality of the legacy that we bequeath to our future generations. The greatest gift to the future generation is peace and prosperity. Our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ is known as the greatest leader of all the time, not because of the number of crowds he was attracting, but because he bequeathed peace to his followers and continuously emphasized on the values of peace.

Mr. President,

Therefore, it is time that all together we make the choice to proclaim, announce and work for peace all around the world.

May all nations silence weapons and any threat of use of nuclear weapons .

Let the mind and spirit of peace be with everyone.

May God bless AFCONE

May God bless the IAEA and all AFCONE Partners,

Thank you, Mr. President.