



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENERGY OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE LONKHOKHELA
AT THE 69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY GENERAL CONFERENCE
VIENNA, AUSTRIA | 15–19 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Director General of the IAEA,
Deputy Director Generals,
Honourable Ministers,
Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Acting Director, Division for Africa,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I bring warm greetings from the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Let me begin by commending the Agency, under your esteemed leadership, for its unwavering support to Member States in addressing pressing challenges—from cancer treatment and water resource management to pest control, livestock health, and beyond. Your responsiveness continues to uplift lives across our continent.

Eswatini is proud to have joined the IAEA's Water Availability Enhancement (IWAVE) process. We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the IWAVE methodology and delivering its key outcomes,

including the development of a national Hydrological Gap Plan to strengthen water availability and management.

We are deeply grateful for the Technical Cooperation funding allocated for the 2026–2027 cycle, amounting to **€646,844**. This investment will support:

- The establishment of Eswatini's first public **Radiotherapy Facility**
- **Integrated Pest Management** against the Fruit Fly and False Codling Moth
- Strengthening the **Central Veterinary Laboratory** for early detection and surveillance of transboundary and zoonotic diseases

Preliminary designs for the Radiotherapy Facility at Manzini Government Hospital have been completed with IAEA guidance. We estimate a total requirement of **€10 million** to construct and equip the facility. This initiative is critical to addressing our country's high cancer mortality rate, which currently stands at **88.8 deaths per 100,000 people**. The Construction of the first public radiotherapy for Eswatini will cut on Government spending under the PHALALA FUND which is used to send patients to neighbouring countries for treatment which are dominated by cancer related diseases. The Government has committed limited resources for this activity, however, we look to other partners to come join hands with to set up this facility which will save the lives of many Swati people.

We also acknowledge the Agency's generous capacity-building support—through fellowships, scientific visits, and technical missions—which continues to empower our professionals and institutions.

Eswatini is eager to participate in the **Atoms4Food Initiative**, recently launched by the Director General of the IAEA and the FAO. Our technical teams are actively engaging to ensure we benefit from this transformative programme, which promises resilient, nutritious, and drought-tolerant agricultural solutions.

We are equally appreciative of the scholarships provided for training in **nuclear law**. These come at a pivotal moment, as Eswatini finalizes its **National Nuclear and Radiation Safety Regulatory Bill 2024**. The Bill has passed the House of Assembly, been deliberated in the Senate, and now awaits adoption by Senate and then final endorsement by His Majesty the King. Once enacted, it will establish a regulatory authority and accelerate the development of our radiotherapy facility.

Director General, since joining the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme in 2013, Eswatini has steadily expanded its use of nuclear science and technology. Our **Country Programme Framework (2024–2029)** outlines five priority areas:

- Nuclear and radiation safety
- Food and agriculture
- Human health
- Water resource management
- Energy planning

We remain fully committed to the IAEA's core mandate—nonproliferation, nuclear energy, safety, security, and technical cooperation—and will continue to engage actively with the Agency.

Eswatini is happy to mention that we will be hosting the Sustainable Energy Week, in February, 2027, which is an international event supported by SADC, and we invite the IAEA's Director General and his team to support us, through setting up exhibitions and assuming role of speakers during the event"

Finally, Eswatini has signed most IAEA protocols and looks forward to expert guidance on the remaining instruments.

Thank you for your attention.
