

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA

DELIVERED BY HON. RICHARD GYAN-MENSAH,

DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND GREEN TRANSITION

AT THE 69TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
(IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE

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FROM 15TH TO 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

Mr. President,

Director-General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I join earlier speakers to warmly congratulate you and members of the Bureau for this session on your election, and to commend you for the professional conduct of this meeting so far. Ghana's delegation which I am leading assures you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duties.

Mr. President, I start my statement on a rather sad note, as the Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, Honourable Dr. Ibrahim Murtala Muhammed who was to lead Ghana's delegation to this year's conference died in a tragic helicopter crash along with seven others on 6th August, 2025. Hon. Murtala Muhammed's vision aligns with our discussions today. May his soul and the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace.

Mr. President, I convey the Government of Ghana's appreciation to the IAEA and our development partners for their support in agriculture, industry, environment, health, nuclear energy, safety, security, and human resource development. We look forward to sustaining and strengthening these partnerships.

Mr. President, in the area of agriculture, Ghana's collaboration with the IAEA is yielding three significant results:

- First, through the IAEA-supported Centre for Plant Breeding and Genetics, we are providing capacity building to other African countries to enhance productivity and food security on the continent.

- Second, the Centre is supporting local farmers through H. E. The President's flagship 'Feed Ghana Programme', which is targeting at enhancing agricultural output. - Finally, we are collaborating in agricultural research, and innovation, which are necessary to ensure sustainability and achieving SDG 2.

Indeed, in order to cement this relationship and promote agriculture, in July this year, we proudly hosted the inaugural IAEA Task Force meeting on aquaculture in Africa, bringing together experts from 16 nations. We are optimistic about the potential of nuclear applications to advance aquaculture development across the continent.

Mr. President, another important area the country has benefited from the IAEA is science. Ghana has benefited from substantial IAEA support in operating and utilising the Accelerator facility. In 2025 there is a scheduled Agency-facilitated one-month fellowship in Spain for four scientists and three technicians beginning in October, as well as the procurement of laboratory equipment and accelerator spare parts. In addition, the country is preparing to host the IAEA Integrated Research Reactor Utilisation Review Mission (IRRUR) in December 2025. The expected outcome of the mission is to increase the utilisation of the Ghana Research Reactor-1 (GHARR-1) facility. Further, with IAEA support, Ghana is procuring analytical equipment, including an FTIR spectrometer, to research the occurrence and sources of microplastics in seawater and beach sand. Findings will inform national and regional marine litter initiatives under the IAEA NUTEC Plastics programme. This nuclear techniques application in plastic waste management supports Ghana's environmental sustainability agenda, including the planned ban on single-use plastics.

Mr. President, in terms of capacity development in the water sector for both locals and experts from the sub-region, Ghana's Isotope Hydrology Laboratory, has been a vital resource. The Laboratory is serving universities, researchers, and industry in tackling water quality and basin hydrodynamics to support sustainable water management in furtherance of the SDG 6.. In July 2025, the Laboratory, in partnership with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology's (KNUST's) Regional Water and Environmental Sanitation Centre and the Water Resources Commission of Ghana hosted a 5-day regional short course on isotope hydrology with participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Zimbabwe. In addition, Mr. President, through collaboration with IAEA, Ghana keeps updating its list of masters' programmes at the

School of Nuclear and Allied Sciences to train students from Ghana and the African sub-region.

Mr. President, last year, we reported that Ghana has signed two Corporation Framework Agreements for a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) and a Conventional Large Scale Reactor. The Government continues to engage with relevant vendors. Successful negotiations with the two vendors could lead to the country potentially signing and executing two projects concurrently. In addition, Ghana hosted a Site and External Events Design (SEED) mission from the IAEA for site selection and arrangements are advanced to install meteorological equipment at the preferred and backup site locations. The feasibility study is advancing, and the project organisation, Nuclear Power Ghana (NPG) with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Green Transition is making the necessary arrangements to start the detailed site characterization studies.

To build public trust in Ghana's nuclear power programme, the Nuclear Information, Communication and Education (NICE) campaign was launched to raise awareness, integrate nuclear education in schools, and ensure sustainability. Through NICE, the NEXTGEN Nuclear Initiative, implemented via RETC, engaged future leaders by training 10 social media advocates from five African countries and reaching over 8,000 high school students across Ghana's nuclear project regions.

Ghana is strengthening strategic partnerships, notably through bilateral cooperation with the United States and Japan, to advance its nuclear programme. These collaborations have enhanced industry capacity via the Regional Energy Training Centre (RETC), the commissioning of a full-scope simulator for training and education, and the launch of a Regional Welding Certification Programme tailored to the nuclear sector.

Mr. President

The Ministry of Health is seeking IAEA's assistance for a Technical Mission, and to leverage the offerings under the IAEA's Rays of Hope Initiative to improve our radiotherapy service delivery. We need Development-partner-supported enhanced radiotherapy services to complement Governments initiatives to combat chronic and non-communicable diseases under the Ghana Medical Trust Fund (Mahama Cares) initiative.

Mr. President, a Nuclear programme requires a strong commitment to radiation and nuclear safety and their continuous improvement. To this end, Ghana has strengthened

its regulatory control system to protect people and the environment from potential hazards. From 25th November to 4th December 2024, Ghana hosted a ten-day Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to peer review its legal and regulatory framework for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste and transport safety, as well as the safety–security interface. The mission’s recommendations are now guiding improvements to the country’s nuclear and radiation safety infrastructure.

Ghana’s Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) is strengthening its regulatory capacity with support from the IAEA and bilateral partners. Through the partnership, NRA successfully licensed Ghana’s first medical CYCLOTRON which is now in operation and producing radioisotopes for disease diagnosis.

Additionally, Ghana is strengthening its radiation and nuclear safety programmes through better emergency preparedness, upgraded protection services, workforce training, and enhanced engagement with communities and industry to build trust. THUS, Ghana undertook a high-level review of its Integrated Nuclear Security Sustainability Plan (INSSP) to reinforce national measures against emerging threats.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate, the Government of Ghana’s appreciation for the numerous support initiatives from the Agency as well as development partners which has placed Ghana in a positive position towards the attainment of its nuclear ambitions for peaceful use.

I thank you, Mr. President for this opportunity.