

# KENYA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT AT THE 69<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

### 15<sup>TH</sup> TO 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

#### **DELIVERED BY**

PROF. ABDULRAZAK SHAUKAT, EBS,

# PRINCIPAL SECRETARY STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

ON

**16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2025** 

#### Mr. President

#### Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General - IAEA

#### **Distinguished Delegates**

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. It is with great honor that I deliver this statement on behalf of Kenyan delegation.

#### Mr. President,

- 1. Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of this 69<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference. Please be assured of Kenya's full cooperation and support as you discharge your important responsibilities.
- 2. My delegation commends the Agency for its steadfast dedication to promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The Agency's work remains a cornerstone in enabling Member States — particularly developing countries — to harness nuclear applications in advancing national priorities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### Mr. President,

4. Our collaboration with the Agency has been instrumental in advancing Kenya's development aspirations, particularly in energy diversification, climate adaptation, food security, and expanded access to healthcare — all of which are aligned with Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and our Vision 2030 long-term development blueprint.

#### Mr. President

- 6. Guided by the IAEA's Milestones Approach and international best practice, Kenya is progressing steadily in the development of its national nuclear power programme. We are currently in **Phase II**, with construction of our first nuclear power plant expected to commence in **2027**, and grid connection targeted for **2034**.
- 7. In July 2025, Kenya issued a **Request for Information (RFI)** to nuclear technology vendors. This marked a pivotal step in selecting a suitable partner and technology to ensure that our nuclear power project is delivered on time, within budget, and in line with Kenya's best interests.
- 8. We appreciate the Agency's continued support in building human and institutional capacity, and in conducting expert reviews of our national infrastructure. We were honoured to host the inaugural **IAEA Small Modular Reactor (SMR) School** in Nairobi in May 2025 a milestone that highlighted Africa's growing interest in innovative nuclear solutions to meet energy, development, and climate goals.
- 9. Kenya is pursuing the establishment of a **Nuclear Research Reactor** to enhance research, training, and development.

#### Mr. President,

- 10. Kenya like many developing countries continues to grapple with a growing cancer burden, recording over **44,000 new cases** and **29,000 deaths** annually.
- 11. The Government of Kenya has made significant strides in the health sector, particularly in the fight against cancer. We commend the IAEA's Rays of Hope initiative, which has made tangible progress in expanding access to sustainable, life-saving radiotherapy services.

12. With the Agency's and partners support, Kenya has established two regional cancer centres in **Nakuru** and **Mombasa**, which are now operational. In the past year alone, these facilities provided radiotherapy to more than **5,000 patients** — a testament to the life-changing impact of this initiative.

#### Mr. President

- 13. Kenya welcomes the IAEA's **Atoms4Food** initiative as a timely and transformative response to the growing challenges of food insecurity and climate change.
- 14. In Kenya, nuclear science and technology have directly improved smallholder productivity, optimized irrigation, enhanced nutrient efficiency, and reduced emissions. Notably, the development of three new forage grass varieties and the use of isotopic techniques have led to up to 20% yield increases and 20% reduction in fertilizer costs, strengthening food security and resilience.

#### Mr. President

- 15. Kenya remains firmly committed to the highest standards of **nuclear safety, security, and safeguards**. Through the enactment of the **Nuclear Regulatory Act**, we have strengthened our legal and institutional frameworks to align with international norms.
- 16. Notably, we have made significant strides in preparing for the upcoming **Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS)** mission scheduled for **October 2025**.
- 17. Kenya continues to play a vital role in regional capacity building through the Kenya Nuclear Regulatory Authority (KNRA), which has been designated as a Regional Centre for Education and Training in Radiation Protection. We are proud to host and mentor fellows

- from neighbouring countries, further strengthening regional collaboration and expertise in radiation safety.
- 18. Kenya's recent admission to the **IAEA Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF)** has deepened our engagement in multilateral collaboration and peer-to-peer learning in areas such as site evaluation, licensing, and infrastructure development.
- 19. Kenya has also played a leading role in strengthening regional nuclear security through the successful hosting of the **East Africa Transport Security Symposium** and sustained capacity-building efforts.
- 20. We are also in the final stages of ratifying key international conventions on nuclear safety, ensuring that our future nuclear installations adhere to the highest global safety benchmarks.

#### Mr. President

- 21. Kenya aims to establish a **Regional Designated Centre for NDT**, and we look forward to IAEA collaboration to ensure a robust, internationally compliant workforce in this field.
- 22. In the water sector, Kenya established a **National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory** with IAEA support. This has greatly enhanced professional and institutional capacity for **sustainable water resource management**.
- 23. In our continued pursuit of maximizing the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, we are in the process of establishing the **Kenya Nuclear Energy Commission**. The support of the Agency will be indispensable to the success of this undertaking.
- 28. In conclusion, Mr. President, Kenya reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the work and ideals of the IAEA. We stand ready to deepen collaboration with the Agency and fellow Member States in promoting the peaceful, safe, and secure uses of nuclear science

and technology — for the benefit of humanity and for the sustainable development of present and future generations.

## I Thank you.