

### **STATEMENT**

BY

# THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY Mr. MONIZ ZUCA, DIRECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

ΑT

69th SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

**VIENNA**, 15 – 19 **SEPTMBER**, 2025

# Mr. President,

# Director General of the IAEA, Ambassador Rafael Mariano Grossi,

# **Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Mozambique, allow me, Mr. President, to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this 69th Session of the IAEA General Conference. We also extend our congratulations to all Member States gathered here, and to the IAEA Secretariat for convening this important event.

At the outset, let me reaffirm Mozambique's full cooperation in the deliberations and decisions of this Conference, guided by our shared goal of promoting international peace and security, and advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology for sustainable development.

# Mr. President,

Mozambique is committed to achieving socio-economic development through the peaceful use of nuclear technology in key areas such as healthcare, agriculture, industry, water resources, environmental protection, and mineral resources management. In this regard, our third Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2024–2029, signed in January 2025, provides a strategic roadmap for cooperation with the IAEA.

We recognize that nuclear techniques often serve as catalysts, complementing national development programmes and enhancing results when combined with other approaches. For this reason, technical cooperation with the IAEA remains a top priority.

# Excellencies,

The global energy transition is an urgent imperative. Mozambique has approved its Energy Transition Strategy to 2050, which foresees major investments in hydropower, renewable energy, and electricity grid expansion. A key milestone is the 1,500 MW Mphanda Nkuwa hydropower project, with regional benefits. Thanks to programmes such as ProEnergia, electricity access in Mozambique increased from 31% in 2018 to around 60% in 2024, demonstrating our commitment to universal access.

Looking forward, Mozambique is exploring the potential of nuclear energy, particularly small modular reactors (SMRs), as a complement to renewables,

especially in remote regions. In this regard, we seek the IAEA's support for feasibility studies and capacity building to assess the role of SMRs in our long-term energy strategy.

# Mr. President,

In the health sector, nuclear applications are vital in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as cancer. Through the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme, Mozambique has strengthened radiotherapy and radiology services at Maputo Central Hospital, training 18 health professionals including oncologists, medical physicists, technologists, and nurses.

However, challenges remain. The linear accelerator (LINAC) requires full functionality and sustainable use, while the brachytherapy unit must be operationalized. These lessons will guide the establishment of new radiotherapy centres in Nampula and other regions, ensuring proper architectural planning in line with IAEA-WHO standards, and embedding effective maintenance contracts to guarantee long-term sustainability.

# Excellencies,

Agriculture accounts for 70% of Mozambique's Technical Cooperation portfolio, spanning animal health, food safety, and plant breeding. We are therefore pleased to announce Mozambique's intention to join the Atoms4Food initiative, which directly aligns with our national agricultural priorities.

On nuclear safety and security, Mozambique is working with the United States Department of State's Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) to strengthen the safety and security of radioactive sources, including through the upgrade of Maputo Central Hospital's bunker for disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS). We reiterate our commitment to the IAEA Guidance on the Management of DSRS, and to establishing a national policy and strategy for their safe management.

Finally, Mozambique reaffirms its commitment to the global nuclear disarmament agenda. We support the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW) as complementary to existing instruments, notably the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) and the Pelindaba Treaty establishing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. At the national level, the process of ratification of the TPNW is advancing and will soon be submitted to our Parliament for consideration.

Thank you.