



**TENTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

**SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STATEMENT TO MAIN COMMITTEE III –
PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY**

Chairperson,

My delegation associates itself with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and African Group.

Chairperson,

The NPT reaffirms the inalienable right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy pursuant to Article IV of the Treaty. The demand for nuclear power and the application of nuclear technology continues to increase.

Nuclear power and the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, if optimised to the fullest, can meaningfully contribute to the achievement of a country's socio-economic development goals in line with their national priorities, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and on the African continent, the African Union's Agenda 2063. The inalienable right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology is therefore of particular relevance and importance in attaining sustainable and accelerated socio-economic growth in Africa.

On the African continent, Member States continue to collaborate through nuclear science and technology projects and programmes focussed on specific and shared needs. The African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training (AFRA) is a vital framework that allows us to intensify efforts aimed at creating awareness in our countries about the benefits of nuclear science and technology, not only to policymakers but also members of our communities, particularly women and

the youth. AFRA also provides an important platform for building skills and capacity across the region.

Chairperson,

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has a leading role in the development and promotion of nuclear and nuclear-derived technologies. Through international cooperation, and working together with the IAEA, Member States are thus able to harness the enormous benefits that accrue from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, consistent with the Agency's motto "Atoms for Peace and Development".

My country acknowledges the commendable efforts undertaken by the IAEA and progress made in responding to the needs of Member States, especially the support provided to State Parties in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the launch of the first phase of the cancer treatment project "Rays of Hope" in Africa.

- South Africa therefore recommends that the Conference reaffirm the 2010 NPT RevCon outcome which inter alia states that each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses should be respected.

Chairperson,

The Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA is the main delivery vehicle for nuclear science, technology, and applications for peaceful uses, in accordance with the IAEA's Statute. South Africa attaches great importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme and remains committed to hosting, supporting and participating in fellowships, scientific visits, training courses and international schools in all the areas of the IAEA's work.

South Africa remains concerned about the lack of sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) funding for the IAEA to fulfil its promotional mandate through the Technical Cooperation Programme, and to meet the increasing number of requests for Technical Cooperation projects by Member States. In order to deepen international cooperation and ensure greater access for Member States to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology, it is vital that the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme be strengthened and that the resourcing of the Technical Cooperation Fund be sufficient, assured and predictable.

Chairperson,

South Africa attaches great value to the role of the IAEA's Nuclear Applications laboratories at Seibersdorf, which continue to assist Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. The Nuclear Applications Laboratories, which will celebrate their 60th anniversary this year, are of the utmost importance, as they are at the centre of technical assistance, capacity building and research for developing countries.

South Africa, as co-chair of the Friends of ReNuAL, continues to encourage Member States and non-traditional donors to contribute extra budgetary funds to the renovation and modernisation project and values the work undertaken at Seibersdorf.

The Animal Production and Health Laboratory (APHL) was a beneficiary of the first phase of ReNuAL. The state of the art and newly equipped laboratory allows the IAEA and its Member States to detect, characterise, diagnose and control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases rapidly and accurately and will continue to do so well into the future. All IAEA COVID-19 related assistance was delivered through the APHL and its VETLAB Network, a network initiated by South Africa in 2012.

South Africa fully supports ReNuAL 2, the final phase of the renovation and modernisation project which will include the replacement of the greenhouses; and the VETLAB Network to improve Veterinary Laboratory Capacities in Sub-Saharan Africa for the Early and Rapid Diagnoses and Control of Various Transboundary Animal Diseases.

Chairperson,

South Africa supports all the IAEA's activities that strengthen global nuclear safety and believes that nuclear safety should positively contribute to the development and utilisation of nuclear technology for peaceful uses. South Africa also appreciates the work of the Agency in supporting the activities of the Member States to enhance nuclear security. However, South Africa reiterates its position and calls on the Conference to reaffirm that nuclear security should not be a precondition to access nuclear science and technologies for peaceful uses.

Chairperson,

South Africa believes that the integrity of the NPT rests on the fundamental bargain across the three pillars of the Treaty, each of which must be recognized and upheld. The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an inalienable and integral right that should not be compromised. In this regard, the Treaty must be implemented in all its aspects without prejudice and no aspect should be more strictly enforced or require stricter implementation than any other.

I thank you.