

35th Meeting of AFRA Representatives

Vienna, Austria, Conference Room CR5 (C building, 7th floor)

19 September 2024, Vienna, Austria

Statement of the Chair of the Vienna-based African Group

HE Mr Maurice Makoloo

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I am delighted and deeply honoured to address this 35th meeting of AFRA representatives, as Chair of the Vienna-based African group.
- On behalf of the African Group, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Algeria and Dr. Abdelhamid Mellah, outgoing AFRA Chair for their stewardship of AFRA since the last Meeting of AFRA Representatives in September 2023. I would also like to congratulate the Government of Ethiopia and HE. Mr Belete Molla, the incoming AFRA Chair.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr Rafael Grossi the IAEA Director General and the Secretariat for their continued cooperation and support to Africa, including through the TC programme and its recent initiatives. I cannot stress enough the importance of the assistance to African Member States and the recent launch of the Rays of Hope and Atoms4Food initiatives, which will would contribute to improve access to

cancer diagnosis and treatment and contribute to food security for a growing number of countries around the world and in Africa in particular.

- Allow me, Excellencies, to express our thanks to the distinguished representatives of the donor Member States and the partner Organisations.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The TC programme has achieved a remarkable implementation rate of 91.40% in 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the TC Division for Africa and its Director Shaukat Abdulrazak, for this excellent performance. I commend your increased efforts for building capacities in Africa through the Masters programme in Nuclear Science and Technology, Medical Physics, Radiopharmacy and the PhD sandwich programmes. I would like to assure them of the full support of the African Group.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Since 4 April 2020, a revised AFRA Agreement entered into force. To date, only 38 out of 49 African Member States have acceded to this revised AFRA Agreement. I would like to encourage countries that have not yet deposited their instrument of acceptance to the AFRA Revised Agreement to do so. This is a prerequisite to ensure their continued participation in AFRA activities and to further maximize the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for their socio-economic development.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I would like to take this opportunity to invite all Member States to contribute to the AFRA Fund. The establishment of the AFRA Fund was one of the notable achievements of the 2007 AFRA High-level Policy Seminar. Through Member States' contributions the AFRA Fund has contributed to bridge the funding gaps of the AFRA projects. It is therefore of utmost importance that we all pay our shares to the AFRA Fund.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- AFRA remains an effective framework to intensify south-south cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Above all, AFRA is a collective expression of our commitment to ensure the contributions of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology toward achieving more socio-economic impact.
- In closing, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to AFRA State Parties for their continued commitment to AFRA. I also want to comment the leadership in Division for Africa for their invaluable support to AFRA in peaceful uses of nuclear Science and Technology.

Thank you for your attention.