

THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AT THE 70TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

**DELIVERED BY:
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MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE
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**Mr. President,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, I wish to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the elected officials of the 70th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. Rwanda reaffirms its strong commitment to the International Atomic Energy Agency and its mandate to promote the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in support of sustainable development and humanity.
2. Rwanda commends the leadership of the Director General, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, and the IAEA Secretariat for their continued efforts to expand access to the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, particularly in developing countries. We highly value the Agency's continued support to Rwanda in advancing our national nuclear program and strengthening the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

3. Rwanda considers nuclear science and technology an important enabler to the achievement of its national development priorities under Vision 2050. Our objective is to harness nuclear technology to strengthen energy security, healthcare, food security, research and industrial development. Over the past year, we have made significant progress in moving from policy and institutional preparation towards implementation.
4. A major milestone in 2026 was the successful completion of the **IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR)** mission, conducted from 2 to 9 March 2026. The mission provided an important assessment of Rwanda's progress in developing the infrastructure required for the safe, secure and sustainable introduction of nuclear power and provided valuable recommendations to guide the next phase of our program.

5. Following the INIR mission, Rwanda has already developed an Integrated Work Plan for the implementation of the INIR recommendations, which provides a coordinated framework for addressing the identified areas and strengthening Rwanda's readiness in line with the IAEA Milestones Approach. Rwanda looks forward to continued engagement with the Agency in implementing and monitoring this work plan.
6. Rwanda also successfully hosted the **IAEA Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review for Research Reactors** (INIR-RR) mission from 13 to 21 July 2026. The mission assessed Rwanda's preparedness for the development of a research reactor as part of the planned Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology. The recommendations from this mission will further guide our efforts to establish the necessary institutional, technical and human-capacity foundations for the responsible development of nuclear science and technology.
7. Rwanda expresses its appreciation to the IAEA for the constructive engagement and valuable expertise provided through both review missions. These peer-review mechanisms are important to ensuring that Rwanda's nuclear program develops in accordance with international standards and best practices.

Mr. President,

8. Africa's growing energy needs require practical pathways to translate nuclear ambition into safe, sustainable and investable programmes. In this spirit, Rwanda was honoured to host the **Nuclear Energy Innovation Summit for Africa** (NEISA 2026) in Kigali in May this year under the theme ***"Powering Africa's Future: Turning Nuclear Energy Ambition into Investable Reality."*** The Summit brought together Governments, international organizations, financial institutions, technology developers, industry representatives and experts to explore practical pathways for accelerating the responsible deployment of nuclear energy in Africa.
9. Rwanda appreciates the partnership with the IAEA and the participation of the Director General, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, at NEISA 2026. NEISA demonstrated that Africa's nuclear ambitions must increasingly be matched by access to technology, financing and skilled human capital. Rwanda therefore welcomes stronger engagement between African countries, the IAEA, financial institutions and technology providers.

10. The next NEISA summit 2027 will be hosted by Togo in Lomé and is scheduled from 1st to 3rd of June 2027. I take this opportunity to encourage world leading nuclear technology innovators to actively participate and showcase energy solutions that can accelerate both industrialization and energy transition in Africa while meeting the Carbon Emission Objectives.

Mr. President,

11. Rwanda also attaches great importance to the non – power peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, particularly in human health. Through the **Rays of Hope** initiative, Rwanda is working to strengthen access to advanced cancer diagnosis and treatment, including the development of national capabilities for cyclotron -based production of radiopharmaceuticals and PET imaging. These investments will contribute to earlier and more accurate cancer diagnosis and improved access to modern nuclear medicine services.
12. Rwanda appreciates the support provided through the Rays of Hope initiative and looks forward to further cooperation with the IAEA to strengthen the required infrastructure, human resources, quality assurance and technical capacity necessary for sustainable and safe delivery of these services.
13. In agriculture and food security, Rwanda recognizes the significant potential of nuclear and isotopic techniques to improve agricultural productivity, food safety, nutrition and climate resilience. Rwanda has therefore expressed its interest in participating in the **Atoms4Food initiative**, jointly supported by the IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
14. We look forward to working with the IAEA and FAO to assess Rwanda's national priorities and capacities and to develop a tailored program under Atoms4Food. This cooperation would support Rwanda's efforts to strengthen food security, improve agricultural productivity, enhance food safety and quality, reduce post-harvest losses and build climate-resilient food systems.

15. Rwanda remains committed to developing the human and institutional capacity required to sustain its nuclear program. We continue to invest in education, specialized training, knowledge management and international partnerships, recognizing that competent human resources are fundamental to the safe, secure and effective application of nuclear science and technology.
16. Rwanda further reaffirms its commitment to nuclear safety, nuclear security, safeguards and radiation protection as fundamental pillars of its national nuclear program. We will continue to work closely with the IAEA and other partners to ensure that all nuclear activities are undertaken responsibly and in full accordance with international obligations and standards.

Mr. President,

17. Rwanda recognizes that international cooperation remains essential as countries seek to harness nuclear science and technology for sustainable development. We therefore greatly value the IAEA's technical cooperation programs, peer-review services, capacity-building initiatives and expert support, which continue to play an important role in strengthening Rwanda's capabilities.
18. Rwanda welcomes the Agency's continued efforts to ensure that developing countries, particularly in Africa, can equitably benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. We encourage further strengthening of technical cooperation and capacity-building programs that respond to the specific development priorities of Member States.
19. In conclusion, Rwanda reaffirms its strong commitment to the IAEA and its mandate, African Member States, regional organizations, development partners and other stakeholders to advance the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology across the continent. We express our appreciation to the Director General, the Secretariat and Member States for their continued cooperation and support. Rwanda looks forward to deepening this partnership as we advance the implementation of our nuclear program and harness nuclear science and technology to contribute to energy security, improved healthcare, food security, industrial development and sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr. President.