

**STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: NUCLEAR ENERGY, MR
ZIZAMELE MBAMBO ON THE OCCASION OF ASSUMING THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (AFRA) FOR
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING RELATED TO NUCLEAR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
20 SEPTEMBER 2019
VIENNA**

Acting Director –General Mr Feruta
Your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations
DDG Technical Cooperation, Mr Dazhu Yang
DDG Nuclear Applications: Ms Najat Mohktar
Director TC-AFRICA- Mr Shaukat Abdulrazak
AFRA Secretariat
AFRA National Coordinators
Distinguished Guests and
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government of South Africa welcomes the opportunity to Chair AFRA. It is the intention of South Africa to drive the Agenda of AFRA to greater levels that we all desire and in support of the implementation of the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework (RCF) 2019-2023.

Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to the IAEA Director General Mr Yukiya Amano and our very own young and vibrant Deputy Minister her Excellency Ms Bavelile Hlongwa who was supposed to be heading this delegation.

I would like to congratulate the outgoing AFRA Chair from Ghana, Prof Benjamin Nyarko for the outstanding work he has done for AFRA during his tenure,

Your Excellences,

African is a rising continent after being at the back burner for decades. This calls upon us to double our collective efforts in ensuring the security of supply of energy whilst developing skills of our people in the Continent particularly the youth and women. Our main objectives underpinned by atoms for peace and development. The AU Africa agenda 2063 and the UN sustainable development goals should be the guiding principles for the strategies and plans we need to develop and implement.

Following my nomination as the AFRA chair, for the next year, I will be tirelessly working together with all the members including the AFRA committees to further implement the plans and strategies of the Regional Country Framework which is our 5 years strategic plan ending in 2023, however, our efforts should be focused on interventions beyond the stipulated RCF plan,

Acting Director-General,

More than ever before, Africa needs inter trade and for its self-sufficiency goal. It is with the spirit of Africa for Africa that I would like during my term of Office to encourage strong cooperation amongst AFRA Member States in the form of Expert exchange, Fellowship training, Bi-lateral cooperation as well as Multilateral cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Africa's nuclear skills need to be sharpened and if we are to compete at a global level. We need to choose impactful Regional Designated Centres that we are able to enhance our expertise in the nuclear fraternity. It is imperative for us to make use of expertise in Africa rather than importing such skills.

We should therefore take advantage of these capabilities and benefit from them in our areas of interest. It is possible for Africa to attain self-reliance and sustainability through working together. In this regard, cooperation amongst AFRA member states is encouraged, as part of the strategic goals in the RCF.

We need to put emphasis on Research in nuclear science technology for socioeconomic benefit. This should be our overarching strategic objective if we want

to realise regional interconnectedness and regional prosperity. The R in AFRA should be pronounced as opposed to it being silent.

During my term, I will also strive to strengthen our relations with our existing partners including the organizations of young generation and women in nuclear. AFRA should work towards encouraging the young nuclear professionals in Africa to develop skills and pursue careers and conduct research in nuclear science and technology.

Countries like my own in Africa has a potential to offer the best nuclear education with regards to nuclear power applications and non-power application. In this regard we are open for business, including in the production of medical radioisotopes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is imperative for us to focus our efforts on nuclear research and collaboration with other important organisations such as AFCONE in the Region. We will soon be signing an agreement with AFCONE as we are commemorating the 10th year anniversary of AFCONE based on the Pelindaba Treaty for an African Weapons Free Zone.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for having considered my country as a suitable candidate for this important role.

I pledge my dedication and commitment to carry the work of AFRA forward and produce results.

I wish a successful year ahead to the whole AFRA Family. Together we can do more.

I thank you.