

Speech
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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

On the 63rd Regular Session
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

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Dear Madam President,
Dear Acting Director General Mr. Cornel Feruta
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first Congratulate you, Madam President and your Country Mexico, for having been elected as President of the 63rd Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank the outgoing President of the IAEA, Mrs. Marta Žiaková for her service to the 62nd Regular Session of the IAEA.

It is also a time for me to pay tribute to the late Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano, who dedicated his whole life to the objectives and functions of the Agency. The “Atom for Peace and Development” Motto of IAEA continues to be Mr. Amano’s Legacy. The Ethiopian government wishes the best of comfort to the families and friends of Mr. Amano.

Ethiopian government also conveys its Condolence on the sudden death of South African Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Madam Bavelile, who was scheduled to be with us today.

Madam President,

My government has already put into Force the Legislative and Regulatory Infrastructure Framework that covers all aspects of Radiation and Nuclear Safety, Security, Safeguards and Liability for Nuclear damages.

Ethiopia has put in place Legal and Institutional Mechanisms that deal with Registration and Licensing of all activities involving nuclear safety and security. Our Regulatory Authority is building itself to becoming competent to control the Use of Ionizing Radiation and other related practices.

Inline with this the Authority is cooperating with the US-NRC for safe and secure utilization of Radiation and Nuclear Technologies.

My Government attaches great importance to the Mandates and Functions entrusted to the IAEA in enhancing the Peaceful Use and Application of Nuclear Energy and other Technology for the Member States. Ethiopia has signed and ratified many treaties related to Peaceful Applications of atomic energy that are significant Global Nuclear Safety & Security.

We have also signed the Country Program Framework (the CPF) for the period upto 2023, for the Technical Cooperation with the Agency, to ensuring the continued support of the Agency, in the Area of Agriculture, Health, Energy and Human Capacity Building.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank IAEA for its supply of two high endurance Drones for the release of sterile flies for the Control and Eradication of Tsetse and Trypanosomosis. On-site Training on Maintenance and Operation of the Drones was also conducted. Mass rearing equipment for the Insectary is also being procured by the Agency.

Madam President,

My country Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in Africa, and is set to becoming Middle Income Economy by 2025. The government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has embarked on a new economic reform Agenda of further widening the participation of the Private Sector in any economic sectors, liberalizing some sectors which have ever been under full government monopoly.

In the Political Space, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has brought a Fresh self-healing Philosophy of Political Leadership in the Horn of Africa. He has single handily resolved the Ethio-Eritrean 20 years of quagmire. As we speak here today, the people in the Horn of African Countries are breathing a Fresh Air of Peace, Friendship and Trust in the Neighborhood.

This Political and Socioeconomic Reform of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is also taking shape in the field of Science and Technology.

It is our ardent belief that without Use of Technology, there is no Sustainable Development. Every SDG Goal is to be realized with Use of Technology. This, of course, includes use of Nuclear Technologies for Peaceful Applications.

Over the last many months we have been seriously working on Bilateral Cooperation with the Russian ROSATOM on establishing Centre of Nuclear Science and Technology for production of RadioIsotopes and for Human Resource Capacity Building. This Bilateral Cooperation also includes a Roadmap for establishing a Nuclear Power Plant in-line with our Policy on Energy Mix.

Therefore, I am standing here to kindly request the scaling up of the Support of the IAEA to the ongoing Projects my country has started Considering Seriously.

On our part, we have finalized and concluded amendments to “Small Quantity Protocol” and have also concluded the Requirements of the “Additional Protocol”. This week I am honored to representing my Great Country Ethiopia on signing the “Additional Protocol” with the IAEA.

Madam President,

My Country has always maintained a long-standing position of the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Ethiopia seeks a very strong Leadership of the IAEA in this Regard. Ethiopia also commits itself to the creation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free-world.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Thank you.