
Commissioner for Peace and Security
Chairperson of AFCONE
Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
AFCON commissioners
Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA)
Representative of the Executive Secretary, Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
Representatives of State parties
Distinguish delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the AFRA Family, I would like to thank the organizers of this conference for the invitation. As you may be aware AFRA family consist on 38 member state in Africa and is coordinated three committees namely:

Programme Management Committee, the AFRA High Level Steering Committee Human Resources Development and Nuclear Knowledge Management and the Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization Committee. Equally we have several regional designated centres and pool of experts and consultants in nuclear science and technology. AFRA is committed to effective and efficient contribution to the socio-economic development of our Continent through the Application of Nuclear Sciences, Techniques and Technology, in synergy with the IAEA Programmes.

Distinguish delgates, there are lessons and good practice that we can learn from AFRA and we must not shy away from sharing and learning from one another. Equally, It is worth noting that AFRA is faced with financial challenges, I request AFCONE through state parties to bridge the gaps and complement the efforts. We must take advantage of this technology to solve some of the pressing challenges in
the area of food and agriculture, health, energy, water resources development, low level of industrialization, and radiation safety.

Mr. chairman, The pelindaba treaty provides the basis for creating an African-owned legal framework for the continent wide initiatives in the promotion of peaceful uses of aspects of nuclear science and technology for development in a sustainable manner.

The challenges to us is to recognize and exploit the opportunities by assuring the implementation of the treaty.

We must explore all viable options and looking at nuclear energy as a viable option in energy mix and lighten this continent occasionally called dark continent. As we do this, we must continue to build infrastructure in nuclear safety and security issue.

On behalf of AFRA, I pledge our commitment on implementation of the treaty and support to AFCONE. I urge for stronger partnership and collaboration among the member states and with development partners. There is a need to build synergies between AFRA and AFCONE, and minimise duplication, I suggest we formalize out linkage through MoU. Lastly, there is a need to take stock on what has been done in the continent and identify the gaps and collectively address them.

Distinguished delegates, We have the opportunity to build capacity in Africa by Africans for Africa. The world is not about to slow down because we are behind, we must therefore leap frog to catch up. I believe collectively we can do it.

I thank you for your attention