Mr. President

At the outset, and on the behalf of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, the FNRBA, I congratulate you for your election as the Chairman of the second conference of parties to Pelindaba Treaty. I wish you a successful mandate while ensuring you the support of the FNRBA.

Mr. President,
Mr. AU Commissioner for Peace and Security
Mr. Chairman of AFCONE,
Mr. Director General of the IAEA,
Honorable Representatives of States Parties to Pelindaba Treaty,
Distinguished Guests,

I express the great appreciation of the FNRBA to the AU Commission for our invitation to this conference.

In the African continent, there is increasing usage of ionising radiation sources. The application of radiation and nuclear technology is widespread, ranging from health and agriculture sectors to industrial activities and others.

There is also an increased will and political commitments by the African countries to advance the application of nuclear technology for power generation.

Allow me to recall the 8th Summit of the African Union, of 25 - 26 January 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during which the Executive Council of Ministers adopted a range of decisions, including a Decision on "The
Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa”. The Decision notes the January 2007 Declaration in Algiers by African Ministers and officials within the framework of the High-level African Regional Conference on the Contribution of Nuclear Energy to Peace and Sustainable Development.

Currently there is also upsurge in Uranium mining in the region. This is driven by increase in global demand for Uranium. The regulatory infrastructure that provides protection of personnel, public and the environment from activities related to uranium mining is not developed.

The region presently has 8 Research Reactors in operations and 1 Nuclear Power production installation facility.

Furthermore, there is increased transport of radioactive materials, if not supported with proper regulatory practice may give rise for unauthorized cross boundary transfers and illicit trafficking of radioactive materials within the region.

Mr. President,

The Pelindaba Treaty now enforce will surely enhance the applications of nuclear technologies in the region according to its mandate to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The above development calls for organised and coherent measures to the control and monitoring the applications of nuclear technology from a safety and security perspective without impeding on the beneficial application thereof. The primary foundations through which valuable regulatory exercise could be ensured is the national regulatory bodies that are equipped to effectively and efficiently implement regulatory control over the application of nuclear technology and practices involving the use of radiation sources at a national level and by promoting regional cooperation among Regulatory Bodies.

The Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, the FNRBA, was founded in March 2009 to deal with the above mentioned issues.

The main challenges to the FNRBA with regard to radiation safety, nuclear safety and security in the continent are: legacy practices, countries with no legislation, countries with legislation not implemented, countries where legislation is implemented but no regulatory body, and
countries with Regulatory body but not effectively independent from promotional organizations.

According to this situation, the objectives of the FNRBA were defined as following:

- To provide a platform for fostering regional cooperation;
- To provide for the exchange of expertise, information and experience;
- To provide opportunity for mutual support and coordination of regional initiatives; and
- To leverage the development and optimisation of resource utilization.

The Forum is open to all Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in the region and it is voluntary. It presently counts 33 members regulatory bodies.

Mr. President,

In order to be concrete, the FNRBA adopted in 2009 its Five-year Strategic Plan which comprises 5 goals:

- Goal 1: To promote the establishment of regulatory infrastructure in all countries of the region
- Goal 2: To enhance the national regulatory systems to be compliant with or compatible with IAEA standards
- Goal 3: To develop and promote a framework for capacity building in areas of radiation and nuclear safety and security.
- Goals 4: To create an opportunity for mutual support and coordination of regional initiatives by leveraging on the development and utilization of regional and international resources and expertise.
- Goal 5: To serve as reference body on matters relating to nuclear and radiation safety and security in the Region
Mr. President,

In view to improve the radiological infrastructure in the region, the FNRBA has engaged itself to implement the Self Assessment Tool developed by the IAEA, which are also referred to the following IAEA thematic safety areas (TSAs):

TSA1: Regulatory Infrastructure
TSA2: Radiological Protection in Occupational Exposure
TSA3: Radiological Protection in Medical Exposure
TSA4: Public and Environmental Radiological Protection
TSA5: Emergency Preparedness and Response
TSA6: Education and Training in Radiological Protection
TSA7: Transport Safety

The actual status of the Regulatory Infrastructure in Africa revealed that only five countries comply with TSA, with four countries that have reached satisfactory level.

The FNRBA seeks to increase cooperation in order to accelerate the improvement of the nuclear regulatory bodies in Africa. The Forum would like to share this concern with AFCONE which, according to its mandate, is responsible for the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technologies in Africa.

In line with the above, the FNRBA has planned:

- An Africa Diplomatic Conference on Safety and Security of Nuclear Power Plants;
- The Completion of Self-assessment of legislative and regulatory infrastructure;
- To advocate for the signing, ratification and domestication of International Safety Treaties and Conventions
• To establish partnership with other regulatory bodies outside Africa
• To strengthen its collaboration work with AFCONE

Mr. President,
Honorable representatives of States Parties to Pelindaba Treaty,
Distinguished Guests,

The FNRBA highly appreciates the support of the IAEA, the US-NRC and the KINS (Korean Institute of Nuclear Safety), for the past and ongoing activities of Forum. The FNRBA equally appreciates the will of the AU to develop cooperation between the Forum and the AFCONE.

Indeed, the four pillars of Pelindaba Treaty are:

1) The Non Proliferation,

2) The Promotion of peaceful use of nuclear science and technology in the frame work of the AFRA Program,

3) The Nuclear Safety & Radiation Protection, which is central to the mandate of AFCONE, and constitutes the duty of the FNRBA,

4) And lastly the cooperation and partnership.

Therefore it is very welcome that the AFCONE and the FNRBA will have to work together to be complementary and to make good use of the regional resources in view to reach high levels of nuclear safety and security standards within the continent.

Thank you for your kind attention!