

**Statement by the Chairman of
the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa
5th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Treaty of Pelindaba
21-22 October 2021**

Excellencies,

Honorable delegates,

Distinguished Executive Secretaries of CTBTO and AFCONE,

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and honor to be with you today at this 5th Conference of States Parties of the Pelindaba Treaty, in my capacity as the Chairman of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA).

This landmark treaty, that we all celebrated its 25th anniversary of the opening for signature this year, has been a key milestone contribution to the international Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (the so called NPT) and proves the support of the African IAEA Member States in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in achieving the ultimate goal of a world entirely free of nuclear weapons.

As a forum gathering 34 African IAEA Member States, that are all members of the Pelindaba treaty, FNRBA was established in 2009 and became formally recognized as a regional inter-governmental organization in September 2019 with the main objective of enhancing, strengthening and

harmonizing radiation protection, nuclear safety and security regulatory infrastructure, and safety and security culture among the IAEA African Member States. This south-south cooperation is badly needed as there are many applications and practices using nuclear and radiological techniques that are contributing to the African socio- economic development in in health, industry, mining, research ...etc. This development, using ionizing radiation, can only be sustained and continuously improved if it is done in a safe, secure and responsible manner.

Excellencies,

Honorable delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

FNRBA works in the line with and complements the objectives of the Pelindaba treaty that consist of, inter alia:

- First: Taking all the steps needed in achieving the goal of a world entirely free of nuclear weapons.**
- Second: Strengthening the non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting general and complete disarmament, and enhancing regional and international peace and security.**
- Third: Promoting regional cooperation for the development and practical application of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in the**

interest of sustainable social and economic development of the IAEA African Member States; and

- Fourth: Keeping the IAEA African Member States free of environmental pollution by radioactive wastes and other radioactive materials.**

Aware of the importance of the objectives of the Pelindaba Treaty and the role of cooperation in achieving these objectives, FNRBA works hand-in-hand with AFCONE and AFRA to further promote the safety and security in the IAEA African Member States.

To formalize the cooperation between FNRBA, AFRA and AFCONE, meetings took place that resulted in the signature of a MoU between AFCONE and AFRA and the drafting of arrangements between AFCONE and FNRBA.

Excellencies,

Honorable delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Pelindaba treaty remains a key milestone ‘towards the strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, complete disarmament, and the enhancement of regional peace and security’. And, this is what FNRBA and all African IAEA Member States strive for.

Certainly, Africa is facing many challenges, but we Africans have many opportunities, and I strongly believe that together, with our collective expertise and capabilities, we can achieve better and more tangible results for a sustainable safe and secure development using ionizing radiation in medicine, industry, agriculture, mining, environment and research.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment and readiness of FNRBA to work closely with AFCONE and AFRA to further strengthen cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a safe, secure and responsible manner.

Thank you very much for your attention!