

ZIMBABWE STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE MAIN COMMITTEE III (PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY) OF THE 2026 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS: UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, 04 MAY 2026

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT and the African Group. The following remarks are delivered in our national capacity.

Zimbabwe reaffirms Article IV of the NPT, in which all States Parties undertook to facilitate, and have the right to participate, in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nuclear technology and science can serve as an accelerant for the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with profound possibilities in sectors including energy, food and agriculture, industry, health, climate change, environment and water. We urge this Review Conference to advance concrete proposals in this regard.

Zimbabwe applauds several initiatives under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which have increased and popularised access to a range of nuclear science applications. These include:-

- The ***Rays of Hope*** programme, which has enabled many countries to establish and/or strengthen access to safe, secure and effective radiation medicine;
- The ***NUTEC Plastics*** initiative which is addressing the global challenge of plastic pollution;
- The ***Water Availability Enhancement Project*** which is improving long-term access to freshwater;
- The ***ZODIAC*** programme which is helping to address zoonotic diseases to safeguard human and animal health; and
- The ***Atoms4Food*** initiative which is helping countries to boost food security.

We further applaud the ***Atoms4NetZero*** initiative, which supports efforts by Member States to harness the power of nuclear energy in the transition to net zero. In this vein, Zimbabwe welcomes the ongoing research into small modular reactors (SMRs), which could enhance energy security while helping to achieve global climate goals. Along with many countries in the Global South, Zimbabwe wishes to benefit from these peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Beyond addressing the urgent imperative for climate action through the provision of reliable low-carbon electricity, heat and hydrogen, nuclear energy is also uniquely positioned to support emerging economic development pathways. We note that new and advanced technologies, including next-generation nuclear designs, are expected to enable emerging and developing economies to leapfrog

traditional development trajectories that have historically centred on fossil fuels and energy-intensive industries. Harnessing nuclear energy could therefore provide a pathway to bridge the energy divide and enable more countries to achieve production scales that reduce disparities in the global economy.

Zimbabwe reaffirms its strong support for the indispensable role of the IAEA:-

- in encouraging and assisting the development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses;
- in technology transfer to developing countries;
- and in nuclear safety, verification and security.

Zimbabwe recalls Action 51 of the 2010 Action Plan, and we urge continued facilitation of transfers of nuclear technology and international cooperation among States Parties and the elimination of any undue constraints inconsistent with the Treaty.

We further reiterate Action 56 of the 2010 Action Plan and underline the need for national, bilateral and international efforts to train the necessary skilled workforce needed to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, we also highlight Action 60 of 2010, which calls for the sharing of best practices in nuclear safety and security, including through dialogue with the nuclear industry and the private sector, as appropriate.

At this critical juncture, we call for a renewed global commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology as a cornerstone of sustainable development and shared prosperity. Nuclear energy and its related applications offer immense potential to advance the SDGs. In this spirit, we urge all States Parties to fully uphold their obligations under the NPT and to reinforce international cooperation that ensures that nuclear technology is used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

We conclude by further encouraging Member States to lend their full support to the initiatives of the IAEA, whose work is indispensable in promoting safe, secure and peaceful nuclear applications for the benefit of all humanity.