

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE ACTING CHAIRPERSON AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 14TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE FORUM OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY BODIES IN AFRICA
(FNRBA) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am particularly pleased and honoured to welcome you to the 14th Plenary Meeting of the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA)

Let me start by thanking and appreciating the IAEA and its dedicated staff for helping in creating the FORUM in 2009 and for its continuous support.

Please permit me to specially welcome and appreciate our donors; the US-NRC, KINS, IRSN, EC, EVCO, agencies of the US-DOE and INSEP-NNSA-USDOE we look forward to enhance assistances from you as the Forum solely depends on you for its activities.

I will to also appreciate the presence of our partners who on one way or the other have been of great assistant to the Forum such as IRSN, WINS, AFCONE and AFRA and the representatives of other

networks like GNSSN , FORO, CSN Spain, ANSN, ANNuR, EuCAS, NRPA Norway and WENRA we really appreciate your support and presence.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Forum was conceived on 2nd October 2008 at the margin of the 52th IAEA General Conference at IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

Thereafter, the FNRBA was officially established at the margin of the First Project Coordination Meeting of the AFRA Project RAF9038 "Promoting Self-Assessment of Regulatory Infrastructures for Safety and Networking of Regulatory Bodies in Africa in Pretoria, South Africa in March 2009.

The Pretoria Meeting was attended by 28 African countries and representatives of the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN), the European ALARA Network and the Office of International Programs of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US NRC).

Based on the results of a SWOT analysis conducted based on presentations from the countries present at the, the FNRBA

meeting identified key regional priorities which are common to all participating member states with a more cross cutting implication for the development and strengthening of national regulatory infrastructures including Human Resource Development, enhanced regional Cooperation and the need for enhanced response to the emerging challenges for strengthening the national regulatory infrastructures.

Upon successful completion of the Agenda items, the FNRBA was officially launched in the presence of Senior Government Officials and representatives of IAEA Member States by the signing of the Forum Charter by 18 of the 28 Regulatory Bodies participating in the meeting. The required number of signatories for the charter to be adopted was 10 member regulatory bodies.

FNRBA established its Steering Committee and a Seven (7) Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) in accordance with Article 8 of the Charter of the FNRBA where they were increased to ten (10) and finally reduce to the present six (6).

Over the years the Forum's Steering Committee was able to meet sixteen (16) times while the Plenary met thirteen (13) times, the Chartered reviewed in 2019 and endorsed by 20 countries out of

34. We were also able to elect three (3) sets of Steering Committee Members.

I am elated to inform you that the Forum has achieved several milestones; established a dedicated website, trained hundreds of members, conducted several Self-Assessment Surveys, executed several workshops and training events with support from our partners.

Ladies and Gentlemen

At this Plenary the Forum has revised the FNRBA-KINS MOU by making slight changes to the original text in Article 5, to focus more on the utilization of the information exchanged which will be signed at this meeting. We are also expected to elect new set of Steering Committee Members.

Once again we welcome of you all to this Plenary Meeting

Thank you

Dr Yau Idris

Acting Chairperson FNRBA