

STATEMENT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. JOÃO BAPTISTA NGANDAJINA,
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
AT THE 44TH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY,
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Mr. Chairman,

Being the first time ever that I take part, as Minister of Science and Technology in a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency I am particularly honoured to address this forum of one of the most prestigious institutions of the United Nations system.

I congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your election to lead the General Conference and I would like to express the total trust of the Angolan delegation in your qualities of leadership, a guarantee that our works will reach a successful conclusion, as we all wish.

I extend my congratulations to the other members of the elected bureau, to whom we reiterate our trust.

And a word of appreciation is due to the ceasing President for the dedication and excellent work performed between the 43rd and the 44th session of the Conference.

I take profit of the occasion to extend a special salute to the Director General, Dr. Mohamed El Baradei and to the Secretariat, that with the usual professionalism of the Agency have done a work of excellent quality in the preparation of this session of the General Conference.

This 44th Regular Session of the General Conference has a special significance and importance for us, being the first Session in which Angola participates as a member State of the IABA since its adhesion to the Organization last November. Since then the competent authorities of my country have been undertaking efforts in cooperation with the Agency to establish the fundamental conditions for the promotion and development of the Nuclear Science and Technology for peaceful purposes, thanks to the fund granted in the framework of the Reserve Fund Project.

Angola is a country with considerable resources among whom radioactive minerals in various regions of the country and attaches great importance to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear safety, and we are of the opinion that the applications of Nuclear Science and Technology to the benefit of people and the protection of the environment against radiation are necessary requirements for a sustained socio-economic development of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

My country is doing the first steps to develop this important sphere and in this context my delegation would like to underscore that, in the framework of the multiform assistance which we have been receiving from the Agency, we were very pleased to welcome, in our country, last month, the first Expert mission of the IABA under Project ANG/9/002-o 1 entitled “Establishing a National Radiation Protection Infrastructure”, which was successfully conducted, with the following objectives:

- to determine the extent of radiation practices,
- to assist us in drafting general legislation, governing radiation protection,
- to advise us on organizational and technical steps towards establishing an effectively independent Regulatory Authority, and to assist us in administrative and technical aspects aimed at establishing an inventory of radiation sources, and provided a valuable contribution aiming future initiatives.

For that we would like to express our most sincere appreciation.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a great lack in my country in what concerns education and training in nuclear Science and Technology that we have to overcome in order to improve the technical and managerial ability of our scientists and technologists, with a view to apply it in the fields of human health, food and agriculture, industry, water resources management, geology etc...

Aiming at attaining those objectives we rely on Agency assistance and technical cooperation as well as from countries, especially the developed ones in the domain of Nuclear Science and Technology.

For this reason, we welcome the proposed Conference “On the Protection of Patients receiving medical exposure due to diagnostic and therapeutic application of radiation sources” which will take place in Spain in March 2001.

We also strongly support the new regional Model Project on “Strengthening Effectiveness of the Regular Framework and National Programme for occupational Radiation Protection”, as well as the new regional project entitled “Post-graduate Training in Radiation and Waste Safety” that the IAEA Secretariat intends to submit to the Board of Governors for approval as part of the regular programme for Technical Co-operation for 2001–2002.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Angola expresses its support to the promotion of the AFRA programme focused in the primacy of nuclear applications into the four high impact themes namely Radiation Protection, Human Health, Agriculture and Industrial Radiation Processes.

We take advantage of this opportunity to express our wish to adhere to this regional agreement in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, allow me to express once again, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Agency and to its Director General and our wishes to strengthen in future the cooperation with the Agency in the field of nuclear Science and Technology.

Lastly I want to reiterate our wish that the 44th Regular Session of the General Conference of the Agency take relevant decisions for the future of the Organization and for the all humankind.

Thank you very much.