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2000

STATEMENT

NAMIBIA

NAMIBIA STATEMENT TO THE 44TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2000, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

Mr. President

Heads of Delegation

Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Director General of the IAEA

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President

Namibia has welcomed your election to preside over the 44th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Allow me to congratulate you and other members of your bureau on your unanimous election. I have no doubt that under your able leadership you will steer the deliberation of the conference successfully. I would also like to place on record my delegations readiness to render you the necessary cooperation and support. I join previous Speakers in welcoming the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan as full Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. President

My delegation wishes to express its full appreciations to the Director General of the IAEA and the Secretariat, for the ably manner in which they prepared the documents before the Conference. The agenda before us demands joint efforts by all delegations to consider carefully all pertinent issues and arrive at amicable conclusions by consensus.

Mr. President

Namibia values the assistance received from the Technical Cooperation Department of the IAEA, as it has made a significant contribution to our main objective of poverty alleviation as defined in our National Development Plan. In fact from September 1999 to September 2000, the IAEA sent several Expert Missions to Namibia, covering the most important social sectors

of the economy such as Human Health, Animal Diseases, Water and Safeguards Inspection, to mention but a few. Namibia is happy to note that the Country Programme Framework which was prepared with technical assistance from the IAEA, was presented to the Agency for funding. We remain confident that the Country Programme Framework will receive the positive considerations from the Agency. We fully share the views expressed by a number of delegations and echoed by the Secretariat, that the Country Programme Framework should be linked to the overall National Development Strategy of a country. This will ensure that Governments will be able to continue funding the projects even when the Agency's initial funding has come to an end. It is with this in mind that the Country Programme Framework for Namibia is specifically developed to compliment our National Development Strategy and is now part of our National Development Plan. We wish to commend the Department of Technical Cooperation for having developed this thematic concept in planning which we find to be very useful.

Mr President

I would like to beg your indulgence and inform the delegates about the areas of cooperation Namibia has with the Agency. This I believe will remind the delegates of the potential the Agency possesses. Namibia received assistance in the following areas:

1. Strengthening Capacity for Diagnosis of Animal Diseases, aimed at upgrading the diagnostic capability for determining and eliminating animal diseases, particularly the contagious bovine pleuropneumonia.
2. Establishment of a Central Radiotherapy Unit, for the curative and palliative cancer treatment and to train national Radiotherapists and Radiation Physicists.
3. Improved Monitoring of Water flow Distributions to introduce isotope hydrology to carry out indirect flow gauging in the Eastern Caprivi area in order to establish a reliable water stage to discharge relationship and to carry out regular checking for hydrological monitoring of various sites.

4. Automatic Tracer Flow Gauging Stations in Ephemeral Rivers to develop an operational system for automated tracer flow gauging during flash floods in ephemeral rivers and to provide reliable data for the sustainable exploration of water resources and,
5. Fertilizer and Water Management, to determine optimal fertilizer and water use options for improved crop production in communal farming areas.

In order to address the issue of poverty reduction in Namibia we have adopted the strategy of integrating use of nuclear technology with other conventional sciences. As a result of successes made in the above projects funded by the Department of Technical Co-operation, we are glad that the project on Fertilizer and Water Management has been extended for three years. A new project on **“Monitoring Veterinary Drug Residual in Livestock”** has been developed to establish screening and confirmatory system using nuclear related technologies for the monitoring of veterinary drug residual in livestock and livestock production. This project is important because it is aimed at eradicating animal diseases in the communal areas where the majority of Namibians are carrying out subsistent farming. The eradication of animal diseases will enable the communal farmers to improve the quality of their products and market their animals without restrictions.

In the area of human health we welcome the Agency’s endeavours to forge partnership with international organizations and in particular, the World Health Organisation. In this regard, we support the efforts by the IAEA to introduce the use of advanced techniques in contributing to the improvement of human health, and specifically, the use of isotopes for control of human communicable diseases mainly the diagnosis of drug resistance in malaria and tuberculosis. Namibia will send a high level delegation to the project planning seminar scheduled for December in Nairobi, Kenya.

We note with satisfaction that the Model Project for the Improvement of Regulatory Authority Infrastructure in Member States has been extended and that it now covers more Member States than before. We are also participating in this project and the milestone identified by the Board of Governors last year as indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of achievements in this area are being implemented in Namibia.

Mr. President

This year Namibia is indeed honoured to assume the Chairmanship of AFRA for a period of one year. Allow me therefore, to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to all AFRA Member States for the confidence they have bestowed on Namibia. I wish to thank my predecessor for the ably manner in which he handled AFRA activities and programmes during Egypt's tenure. There is no doubt that taking over the mantle from him demands us to redouble our efforts. However with your support, we are more than ever prepared to face this challenge. It is my firm submission that the importance and relevance of AFRA needs no further emphasis, AFRA has achieved tangible results in its short-period of existence. For AFRA to succeed, we continue to urge Donor Countries to fund AFRA projects. At the same time, Namibia appeals to all AFRA Member States as well as other Member States of the Agency to consider funding AFRA projects. On behalf of AFRA Member States, let me take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Director General of the IAEA for the excellent cooperation and assistance rendered to AFRA since its inception. We remain confident that the IAEA will continue to provide assistance and experts to AFRA in the coming years. I therefore look forward to a fruitful working relationship between AFRA and the Agency during Namibia's Chairmanship.

Mr. President,

My delegation attaches great importance to the Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocols. Moreover, as you are all aware, the Government of Namibia signed the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA on 20 March 2000. Namibia is therefore in the process of finalising the constitutional requirements for the Additional Protocols to enter into force. The daunting challenges facing the Agency as the only competent and specialized Agency of the UN, charged with the development of peaceful use of Nuclear Energy worldwide can only be realized, if all Member States continue to honour their financial obligations. In this regard my delegation viewed with concern the accumulated areas by some Member States. Whilst mindful of the financial constraints we are all faced with, particularly the Developing Countries, Namibia urges that all Member States of the Agency pay their assessed and voluntary contributions on time and in full. On our part, we have paid both our assessed and voluntary contributions to the regular budget and we will continue to honour our financial obligations in the future. In this regard Namibia pledges her full payment of the voluntary contributions to the 2001 budget.

In conclusion Mr. President, Namibia supports the ongoing negotiations on the financing of the Technical Cooperation Activities and the financing of Safeguards. Namibia, wishes to urge that the consensus which is emerging on two resolutions namely the financing of Safeguards and the financing of Technical Cooperation Activities should be maintained, though the two resolutions have not adequately addressed the plight of the Developing Countries.

I thank you.