

**Statement of Ethiopia for the 48<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the  
General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
Vienna, Austria  
20 - 24 September 2004**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates of Member States,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first of all like to join the previous speakers in congratulating the president on his election as the president of this 48<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA's General Conference. We firmly believe that the conference will conclude its business successfully under the able leadership of the president and other officers of the Conference. I would also like to reaffirm the commitment of the Ethiopian delegation to work in close collaboration towards achieving meaningful and vital results from this Conference.

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the Director General of the IAEA, Dr. Mohammed Elbaradei and the staff of IAEA secretariat whose dedication and support has been instrumental in strengthening and enhancing our collaboration with the Agency and the Member States.

Mr. President,

My country is pursuing an Agricultural Development Led Industrialization economic policy which is mainly focused at poverty reduction and sustainable economic development that benefits the majority of its people. It is for this reason that Ethiopia attaches significant value to its cooperation with the Agency with regard to transferring and applying peaceful uses of nuclear techniques in areas relevant to our situation such as agriculture, water resources management and human health care. At this juncture, I would like to say a few words about the biggest Ethio-IAEA Technical cooperation project aimed at eradicating tsetse fly from one of the most fertile agricultural areas in Ethiopia. The Southern Rift Valley Tsetse Eradication project is a ten-year program initiated in 1997 in line with the common understanding reached between the Ethiopian Government and the IAEA. The long-term objectives of the project are to establish and develop a sustainable agricultural production system in areas that are currently infested by tsetse flies. The potential contribution of success in this direction to the national strategy of poverty reduction and food self-sufficiency is believed to be immense.

The project is designed to address tsetse transmitted trypanosomosis from an area that is roughly 25,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with an area wide integrated pest management approach to be undertaken in phased and conditional programming with community participation and technical support. The two components of the project include establishment of centrally operated sterile insect production plant and the actual field operation of the fly eradication process. Support of the IAEA in implementing the project has been commendable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Agency for its all rounded and continued technical support to make the project success story. The Agency's support was not limited to only nuclear techniques, we appreciate very much its support with regard to non-nuclear but essential and complementary inputs to the project. The full support of the Agency has in

fact encouraged the Ethiopian Government to commit more resources to the project. In this connection we call for continued and enhanced support from the Agency and the member states to make this project, expected to benefit about 10 million people, a reality. This situation shows that a lot has to be done to achieve the objectives of the project.

Mr. President,

One of the priority areas in which we collaborate with the Agency is human health care that includes radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. We would like to acknowledge the Agency for its continued technical support in building basic infrastructural and manpower capabilities particularly in radiotherapy services. Encouraged by the support from the Agency, I am pleased to inform the distinguished delegates here that my government made an extra-budgetary contribution of USD 150,000 to share the costs associated with the purchase of a new Co-50 machine for the Radiotherapy Center of the Addis Ababa University under the technical cooperation project "Upgrading the Radiotherapy Center".

Water Resources Management is also the other area of cooperation between the Agency and my country. Establishment of a National Isotope Hydrology Laboratory at the Addis Ababa University and Development of the National Groundwater Database are the major achievements under the 2003/2004 technical cooperation. These outputs are vital and fundamental to the planned Ethiopian Groundwater Resources Assessment Program which has been included in the 15-year water sector Development program of the country. I would therefore like to thank the Agency and the technical personnel of the Agency once again for their relevant support in building these capacities.

Mr. president,

My country would also like to recognize the outstanding role of the IAEA in safeguarding the world from the threat of nuclear proliferation. We support adoption and implementation of the safeguards agreements and the additional protocol by all member states.

I would like to conclude my remarks by underlining that our cooperation with the Agency has been very encouraging and successful in several areas. I would like to reaffirm that my country is firmly committed to promote and apply nuclear techniques to support its socio-economic development efforts. We also support all initiatives of the Agency and its member states to avert nuclear weapon proliferation through effective safeguard mechanisms. Finally, I would like to bring to the attention of the Agency that regional cooperative agreements between the IAEA member states such as AFRA, need to be encouraged and supported based on a thorough assessment of their contributions towards promoting peaceful application of nuclear techniques and enhancing collaborations among the participating member states.

As a member state of the IAEA, I would like to reaffirm that my country is ready to pay its annual budgetary and technical cooperation fund contributions in full and on time as it has been doing for the last several years.

Mr.- President,

Thank you and the distinguished delegates of the member states for your kind attention.