

**COUNTRY STATEMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA TO THE 48TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA 2004**

**Mr. President,
Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania and my delegation, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your unanimous election to the Presidency of the Forty-Eighth Regular Session of the IAEA's General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, the conference will accomplish its business successfully. I would also like to congratulate all other Members elected to the bureau. I assure you Mr President and the Members of the bureau, of my delegation's utmost support and co-operation.

I wish also to congratulate the Republic of Chad, Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Togolese Republic for joining the IAEA family. Tanzania welcomes these new member states to the IAEA and wishes that this becomes the beginning of a rewarding strategic partnership between these new member states and the Agency.

Mr. President,

My country also wishes to extend its heartfelt condolences to the Russian Federation for the recent barbaric terrorist attack which led to the loss of hundreds of innocent lives. This attack, together with earlier ones in Indonesia, Spain, Australia and other areas, should only further strengthen the resolve of the international community to fight terrorism as a common enemy.

Allow me also, Mr. President, to express my delegation's profound commendations to the Director General, Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei, for his highly informative and guiding statement covering the programmes and activities of the IAEA over the last year. My delegation has noted with a high degree of satisfaction the achievements attained by the Agency in the last year, particularly in the areas of Technical Co-operation, Nuclear Safety, Safeguards and Security despite the limited financial resources to meet the diverse challenges and expanding demands.

I would also like to put on record my delegation's appreciation for the message of the UN Secretary General, Dr. Koffi Annan, delivered on his behalf by the UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs. The message provided valuable guidance to the conference and should contribute to further strengthening of the business of the Agency, particularly in the formulation of appropriate strategies and programmes for the advancement of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and indeed the control of, if not the total ban of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Mr. President,

Before I proceed further with my statement, permit me to once again thank the IAEA for the Technical Co-operation Programmes and projects being implemented for the benefit of my country; and the warm and cordial relationship that exists between the IAEA and my country, particularly between our respective staffs.

I appeal that this cooperation be continued and as much as possible strengthened. Tanzania, like many other LDCs, particularly those in Africa, badly and urgently needs such support and assistance through Technical Co-operation for the acquisition, adoption, adaptation and use of appropriate nuclear

technologies to catalyse economic development and contribute to reducing the poverty of our people.

Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania is participating in the African Regional co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA). The immense benefits of the AFRA projects, apart from those of the Regional Technical Co-operation Programme, are also being realized in the fields of agriculture, health, non-destructive testing, nuclear instrumentation and waste management. I wish, therefore, to take this opportunity to also thank the IAEA and its staff for the generous support; and the AFRA Field Management Committee for their dedication in the running of the AFRA programme.

The successes achieved and the contribution made towards poverty reduction through the projects under the National, and AFRA Technical Co-operation programmes in Tanzania with IAEA's assistance have greatly increased the awareness of our people on the benefits of nuclear technologies.

It is on this understanding and motivation that my country promulgated the Atomic Energy Act 2003, to replace the earlier legislation, in order to put in place a firm foundation and framework for the peaceful and safe utilization of nuclear technology for social economic development and poverty reduction. Once again, I thank the IAEA for the valuable support and co-operation in these endeavors.

Mr. President,

The focus, emphasis and spirit of the new legislation is on efficient and effective frameworks and infrastructure for radiation protection, safety and security; and the acquisition of nuclear techniques for peaceful of atomic energy towards poverty reduction. The legislation was also motivated by the urgent

need to have better control over the use of nuclear technology in an economy that is fast transforming into a free and privately run market-economy.

Nr. President,

Tanzania's Country Program Framework is being reviewed to provide for better focus of Technical Co-operation between my country and the IAEA, and to take into account the goals of the new legislation. It is our intention to finalize the new CPF before the start of the 2005 - 2006 project cycle so that it forms the basis for project proposals in the new cycle, alongside the Thematic plans prepared by the IAEA. The IAEA is, therefore, hereby invited to assist Tanzania finalize this partnership document.

Nr. President,

My country has noted with great appreciation the growing attention being given to cancer therapy in developing countries. The information provided last year through an Agency booklet entitled "A silent Crisis: Cancer Treatment in Developing countries" revealed the large deficit in equipment and expertise that exists in developing countries. This deficit, which prevents many patients from receiving appropriate radiotherapy treatment, is real in my country. As such, Mr. President, my country welcomes with high relief the "Programme of Action for Cancer therapy "PACT" which seeks to increase the IAEA's capacity to assist Member States in providing cancer treatment and care. Tanzania is following up on this programme with keen interest. And since one of the major bottlenecks to efficient cancer treatment is poor early diagnosis, my Country would welcome parallel programmes for early cancer diagnosis, particularly in collaboration with the WHO, during implementation of the PACT. My country is also in strong support of the cost sharing arrangements promoted by the IAEA and has already committed USD 600,000 towards this arrangement in an *effort* to revamp its cancer treatment services in the country.

Mr. President,

My country is very much appreciative of the on-going assistance rendered to Tanzania and Africa in general in the area of tsetse eradication. The assistance from the IAEA has enabled my country to collect base line information in two sites (Mafia Island and North Eastern Tanzania) as the starting point for tsetse eradication initiatives. We have also been able to fly proof our tsetse mass rearing facility at the Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Research Institute, Tanga; and this facility will enable my country to mass rear tsetse species from other countries in support of PATIEC initiatives. My country is currently validating the National Tsetse Eradication Strategy. In view of this, my country appeals for continued support in the implementation of the strategy and the PATIEC initiatives.

Mr. President,

It is unfortunate that the Technical Co-operation Fund (TCF) is experiencing disbursement problems. The funding of Technical Co-operation has not been timely, predictable and assured; and as a result budgeting and programme delivery has not been as efficient and effective as would be desired. The statement of the Director General indicates that the contributions by Member States in the year 2003 to the TCF registered the highest ever attainment rate of 86.8%. Though this was a little below the target rate of 90% agreed for that year, it is nevertheless an achievement we can all be proud of. My country is proud to have been part of this achievement by having cleared all her **arrears** up to the year 2004 to both the regular budget and the TCF. We hope to sustain this level of commitment by doing everything possible to meet all our obligations for 2005 timely, despite the extreme economic hardships.

Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania recognizes the increasing challenges in the areas of nuclear weapons proliferation, and now the global nuclear terrorism

threat! The horrifying events of September 11, 2001; and the earlier ones in Tanzania, Kenya, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and numerous other nations have awoken the international community to the need for new and stronger measures to guard against the possibility of nuclear terrorism. In this regard, the IAEA and the international community, Tanzania included, have welcomed the new Comprehensive Global Threat Reduction Initiative of the US, which aims to address the issue of nuclear security around the world and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. We are informed that some of the IAEA member states have already planned to dedicate more than USD 450 million on nuclear terrorism prevention alone. My country is highly appreciative of this endeavour.

In this regard, I would like on behalf of my country to express profound appreciation to the US government and the IAEA for the assistance extended to us to address the threat of nuclear terrorism. The bilateral assistance rendered to Tanzania by the US through the Basic Ordering Agreement in order to make security upgrades in the facilities with significant radiation sources is highly appreciated!

Mr. President,

On the other hand, Tanzania is deeply worried that these new challenges of nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation threaten to divert attention and resources of the international community away from support to poverty reduction efforts of developing countries in general, and LDC's in particular. As such, Tanzania appeals to all nations, particularly the Member States of the IAEA, to face the challenges of terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation and combat them in as cost-effective ways as possible so that significant resources can still be spared to continue fighting poverty which, in the opinion of my delegation, is one of the root causes of terrorism.

Mr. President

Tanzania considers the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards systems and the additional protocol as vital instruments for reinforcing the Treaty of Non-Proliferation. It is against this background that during this General Conference my country will happily sign the Additional Protocol. I would like, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, to thank the Director General of the IAEA and his staff for supporting our national processes towards this important achievement. I hope and trust that this support will continue as we work to ensure that all the outstanding conventions/treaties or agreements are concluded soonest.

Mr. President,

Tanzania wishes to commend Libya for its decision to voluntarily comply with its Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA and abandon its nuclear programme, which had focused on the production of nuclear weapons; as well as for its increased cooperation with the international community in this regard.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude my statement by reaffirming my Government's commitment in meeting its obligations and maximizing its support to the Agency for achieving its mandated objectives.

Mr. President,

I thank you for your very kind attention.