



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE  
MINISTÉRIO DA ENERGIA**

**GABINETE DO MINISTRO**

**Please Check Against Delivery!**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MR. SALVADOR NAMBURETE**

**MINISTER OF ENERGY**

**HEAD OF MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION**

**52<sup>nd</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF**

**THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**Vienna, AUSTRIA, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Mr. President of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency  
General Conference,**

**Mr. Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me at the outset, Mr. President, to add my voice to those of previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election to preside over the-52nd-Session-of the IAEA General Conference. Our congratulations are also extended to the other members on the Bureau and all other elected officials. I wish you a successful discharge of your noble duties.

We are confident that, under your wise leadership, our deliberations will yield the desired fruit bearing outcome. Please be assured of my delegation's unconditional support and cooperation in this endeavour.

Let me also pay a well-deserved tribute to your predecessor, Mr. Mouin Hamzé of Lebanon, Secretary General of Lebanon's National Council for Scientific Research, for the excellent manner in which he discharged his duties as President of the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of our General Conference.

At this particular juncture, I wish to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to our distinguished Director-General, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, for the able manner in which he has continued to manage the day-to-day affairs of our Organization in the face of numerous and daunting challenges, and for the very

important statement he delivered today on the most recent developments in the IAEA's work.

It is with great appreciation that we take note of the encouraging message by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, providing valuable support for the Agency's work.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the Kingdoms of Lesotho, Nepal and Oman, and the Republic of Papua New Guinea, who have been recently admitted as new members of the Agency. It is our wish that their joining will further strengthen our Universal Organization in its bid for the widest peaceful utilization of nuclear energy and technology for the socio-economic development of the people worldwide.

We also thank the Austrian authorities for the excellent arrangements which will facilitate our deliberations.

**Mr. President,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Distinguished Participants,**

The increased use of nuclear science and technology in different domains such as agriculture, animal and human health and environment has broadened the role of nuclear science and technology in tackling major development challenges in different spheres of economic and social life all over the world. I would be remiss if I failed to underscore, at this point, the importance of a global and all-encompassing technical cooperation to increase, promote and disseminate the

use of nuclear energy for peaceful and developmental purposes, specially within the context of the developing countries' endeavours to eradicate poverty and eliminate the obstacles to their economic, technological and social development. This importance can never be overemphasized.

However, the strengthening of technical cooperation activities, as well as those activities related to transfer of nuclear science, technology and applications will only yield positive results if the technological gap between developed and developing nations is removed or, at least, narrowed. This is a serious obstacle preventing developing countries from fully benefiting from all peaceful uses of nuclear energy to eliminate poverty, hunger and preventable diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis, which claim millions of lives every single year in the world, in general, and in Africa, in particular.

We note with concern that millions of avoidable deaths continue to take place all over the world, mainly because we have not been creative enough to embrace international cooperation paradigms that would allow us to give priority to the use of scientific and technological resources that are available today to develop means of reducing or minimizing the impact of preventable and curable diseases on the poor. We have not been sufficiently innovative to put nuclear technology to the benefit the poor!

In this, we concur with the President's statement in his opening address, when he mentioned that we need atoms for peace, and I would like to add that we also need atoms against hunger and disease, atoms against poverty and, above all, we need atoms for economic and social development.

**Mr. President,**

**Dear Participants,**

As for as Mozambique is concerned, I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Agency's continuous efforts to support developing countries, including my own, by providing assistance in the development and implementation of peaceful nuclear applications, contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of millions of our fellow citizens.

We, therefore, commend all those countries that make contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund, a very important tool for the Agency to deliver on its mandate.

Having Mozambique joined the Agency in September of 2006, we were pleased to receive two technical missions to our country and we have submitted a set of five projects for the Technical Cooperation Program, covering the period of 2009/2011, and we have high expectations that the Agency will approve them expeditiously, taking into account their significance and importance in terms of their contribution to the national efforts to eradicate poverty and promote social and economic development, including the promotion of scientific and technological development in our country, through a coherent and consistent transfer of "know-how" and relevant technologies.

We have become Member of the International Nuclear Information System (INIS) and we are working towards a quick setting up of an INIS Centre in Mozambique. We are confident that this Centre will play a key role in capacity building in this field, by improving access by Mozambican scientists, decision-

makers, members of the business community, NGOs, students and the civil society at large to improve their knowledge and information on nuclear science and technology, thus contributing, in the long run, to the building of a critical mass that the country needs for its sustainable socio-economic development.

We note with great satisfaction the very positive interaction between Agency experts and Mozambican officials involved in the process of project inception and implementation. This is indeed a very encouraging signal of our positive and growing relationship with the Agency.

As part of our unwavering commitment to strengthen the cooperation with the Agency, including at regional level, we are pleased to indicate that we are at a very advanced stage of finalizing the process of accession to the African Regional Co-operative Agreement (AFRA). This Agreement is of vital importance recognizing that, within our national atomic energy programmes in Africa, there are areas of common interest where mutual co-operation can promote the most efficient utilization of available resources for research, development and training activities related to nuclear science and technology to the benefit of our peoples and nations.

We are also engaged in finalizing the process of accession to additional agreements with the aim of increasing and facilitating the expansion and intensification of cooperation with the Agency in other dimensions such as the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, the Agreement on Immunities and Privileges, the Agreement on Safeguards and the Additional Protocol within the Verification System. We expect the internal

ratification process to be expeditious so that these international legal instruments can soon come into force.

Mozambique considers the universalisation of the Safeguards System, including the Additional Protocol, as a matter of crucial importance for the success of such a mechanism of non-proliferation and as a major contribution to the effectiveness of the verification activities of the Agency and thereby to global security.

Recognizing the importance of establishing a Regulatory Agency for the development of activities involving nuclear technology in Mozambique, we are equally in the process of creating this entity to which we expect the Agency will continue to render its collaboration and assistance. A mission of the Agency is expected within a few days to assess the current status and advise the Government of Mozambique on the way forward with a view to establishing this very important Institution for our cooperation.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

The use or application of nuclear science and technology brings along added responsibilities in relation to security and safety. It is incumbent upon all of us to make sure that the international community works together to strengthen safeguards against nuclear proliferation, to promote nuclear safety and security, and to promote the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and economic and social development. Within this context, the IAEA plays a crucial role in ensuring the necessary balance between the needs of development using nuclear energy, on the one hand, and the commitments to nuclear non-proliferation, on the other.

The challenges posed by the nuclear weapons proliferation, the threat of nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking of nuclear weapons require intensified international cooperation in a multilateral framework. This requires genuine political will and serious commitment and full compliance by all States with their legal obligations in the areas of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Finally, I would like to conclude by reaffirming my country's full commitment to the IAEA's objectives and purpose as set out in its Statute and to act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

**I Thank You.**