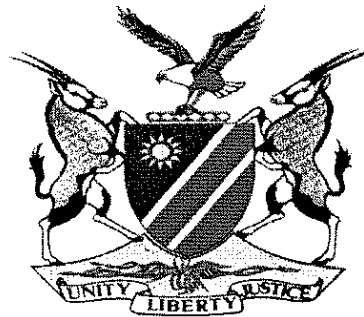


**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MR KAHIJORO KAHUURE  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,**

**52<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE  
IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**30 SEPTEMBER 2008,  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

**Statement by Mr K S M Kahuure, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and  
Social Services, Republic of Namibia,  
52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference,  
30 September, Vienna, Austria.**

Mr. President  
Distinguished Director General  
Esteemed Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President

Allow me to join the speakers before me in congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the fifty second regular session of the IAEA General Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, you will steer this Conference to a successful conclusion. I pledge the support and cooperation of my delegation to assist you in realizing this common goal.

My delegation thanks the Director General, Dr Mohamed El Baradei for his remarks on the status of the Agency's work over the past year, and welcomes the report as presented.

Namibia further welcomes the Kingdom of Lesotho, Papua New Guinea and Sultanate of Oman on the assumption of their Membership of the IAEA.

Mr. President

I am pleased to note that during the past year Namibia has concluded its second Country Programme Framework with the Agency and therefore a foundation has been laid for future technical cooperation. I trust that lessons learnt during the implementation of the first Country Programme Framework will be exploited to contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the current Country Programme Framework.

The foremost and essential input parameters to achieve the objectives of the CPF include building an adequate national capacity and capability. Human resource development has been identified as key to address the objectives our national developmental goals. Government is aware of this shortcoming and we call upon the cooperation of the Agency to assist Namibia in all possible ways to address our human resource capacity.

Furthermore I take note that progress is underway to evaluate the CPF processes in order to bring about improvement in the current operational practices both within the Agency and in respective Members States. I trust that this evaluation will lead to reforms that will enhance the continued monitoring and evaluation of our bilateral cooperation. In this regard I am pleased that the IAEA is encouraging the development of Country Programme Frameworks that are consistent and in harmony with national development goals, which I believe Namibia has successfully followed. Similarly we call upon the Agency to synchronize its operational practices with other United Nations Agency, particularly in areas that address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at national level. A good example of demonstrated success at international level has been the cooperation between the Agency and FAO through the Joint IAEA/FAO Division, which is now under scrutiny or review by FAO.

Mr President

The cooperative partnership between the IAEA and FAO is important to us as we rely on the technical capabilities of both Agencies to address our national priorities in the areas of livestock disease management, soil conservation, improvement of crop varieties as well as the management of our water resources. These priorities include

- Equipping our laboratories with technical capacity to diagnose and eradicate livestock disease. This will contribute significantly towards our efforts to maintain access as well to open the meat market to a large population of our farmers
- Understanding and managing the water resources to ensure adequate provision of quality water resources to our population. This will also contribute in a significant way to address the drought prone climate that Namibia is so vulnerable to.
- Improvement of our crop varieties and used of land and water resources will enhance crop resistance to drought as well as efficient and effective use of the soil and water combination.

We have noted the positive complementary role of nuclear application in all these areas and we trust that the Agency will continue to assist and strengthen Namibia's capacity in these areas.

Mr. President

We appeal to the Agency to pursue all efforts possible to retain and strengthen the cooperative efforts with the FAO. Similar collaborative efforts should also be undertaken with the World Health Organization in the areas of Cancer Control, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria programmes. Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine unquestionably have and continues to contribute significantly to the management of non-communicable disease and we call on the Agency to continue to strengthen the national capabilities in these specialities. We would like to see better cooperation with the World Health Organization to ensure that nuclear applications play a meaningful role to address both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Mr. President

Nuclear and Radiation Safety is an important pillar of the Agency's mandate and we commend the Agency on the guidance and capacity building efforts made. Namibia considers it vital to establish an effective and efficient regulatory framework to ensure that the peaceful applications of nuclear technology can be pursued without fear of undue risk to our national population or our neighbors in the region. For this reason we have initiated processes to implement the legislation and regulatory framework in compliance with internationally recommended standards and in particular the recommendations of the Integrated Regulatory Review Services Mission. Namibia is committed to provide quality of health to its population and in the area of nuclear and radiation safety we can attain to this goal by aiming to achieve compliance with international standards. However this can only be achieved if adequate resources are committed to enable capacity building in terms of technical capabilities and expertise. We therefore call upon the Agency to continue to strengthen its efforts and assisting Namibia in the development of the legislative and regulatory framework for both radiation and nuclear safety. In a similar approach we support the collaborative efforts of Member States in the African Region and in the SADC sub-region to strengthen collaborative efforts to

ensure that we develop common approaches and share resources for the enhancement and standardization of nuclear and radiation safety in the region.

Mr. President

The Republic of Namibia is fully committed to meet its international obligations by ratifying Treaties and Conventions under the Agency's auspices. We have consistently maintained that an appropriate regulatory and technical infrastructure should be in place before we embark upon the ratification of treaties and conventions on nuclear and radiation safety. The enabling legislation is now in place and progress is underway to constitute and empower the national entity responsible for facilitating the ratification process. In recognition that Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons enjoys high priority among Members States and within the Secretariat, we consider the ratification of the Safeguards Agreement as one of the first priorities when ratification of international agreements comes under consideration.

Mr. President

We take cognizance of the international resurgence of nuclear energy for generation of power and the accompanying upsurge in demand for uranium.

The use of nuclear power to augment power supply in Namibia is an option that is still in prospect for our Government and we maintain that its viability should be vigorously investigated. The potential use of nuclear power in Namibia offers an opportunity to address our current and future electricity needs and may also stimulate industrial development for the good benefit of our people.

Mr. President, dear delegates, as you are aware Namibia is richly blessed with uranium resources and due to demand the uranium mining sector is busy experiencing accelerated growth. It is our wish to see to it that the people of Namibia should by all means benefit from her natural resources.

In order to achieve these two ideals we need to set in motion systems and processes that will ensure we achieve these ideals by developing the enabling policies, legislative and capacity framework. It is for this reason that we have proposed national projects to address these issues and I hope that the Agency will give the appropriate response to our national needs.

Lastly Mr President

I commend Director-General, Dr Mohammed El Baradei and the Secretariat for their timeless efforts in making not only this year's Conference a reality, but also for the successful efforts in past years.

I thank you