



**Statement by**

**His Excellency Boometswe Mokgothu**

**Permanent Representative and Ambassador,**

**Republic of BOTSWANA**

**53<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session  
of the  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
General Conference**

**16 September 2009,**

**Vienna, Austria**

- **Madam President,**
- **Director General of the International Atomic Energy**
- **Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Heads of Missions and International Organizations**
- **Distinguished Delegates**

**Allow me, Madam President to add my country's voice in congratulating you to the assumption of your role as President of the General Conference. We equally congratulate your bureau on the assumption of their respective assignments. We are confident that under your guidance and stewardship, our proceedings will achieve a successful outcome. I therefore assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your mandate.**

**Allow me also, Madam President, to express my delegation's profound commendations to the Director General, Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei for the sterling work and leadership he has provided as the Director General of the Agency since 1997. He has definitely left his footprints in the Agency and beyond.**

**Botswana, following its membership in 2002, has benefitted from numerous programmes and activities of the IAEA over his tenure 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 as the Director General has already mentioned.**

**Madam President**

**The Botswana delegation wishes to warmly congratulate Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director- General Elect on his appointment to head the Agency from the 01<sup>st</sup> December 2009. We wish to assure him of our support to his tenure and to wish him well in his upcoming duties.**

**Madam President**

**Botswana welcomes the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda as new Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency.**

**Madam President**

**It is indeed a great honour for me to be addressing this Session of the IAEA General Conference. The Agency's role in assisting member states is widely recognized and has been beneficial to many countries in achieving self-reliance in various nuclear applications. This session comes at a time when the world is facing a number of challenges emanating from natural calamities, diseases, security threats and economic downturns. It is however pleasing to note that despite all hardships, the Agency's programmes such as the promotion of the peaceful application of nuclear technology are increasingly being recognized as a viable and sustainable solution to these problems.**

**Botswana continues to pursue efforts aimed at meeting its obligations as a Member State of the Agency. Thus, since becoming a member state, Botswana has acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Additional Protocols and Safeguards Agreement in 2006 and stand committed to the Nuclear Safety and Security Code of Conduct.**

**We consider 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 to note that the Agency plays an important role in promoting and facilitating co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is thus the sole internationally recognised authority responsible for verifying that these activities are not diverted for non-peaceful purposes.**

**Madam President**

**We continue to register our profound gratitude for the invaluable assistance and support from the Agency in the form of expert advice, monitoring equipment, and training of staff. Nuclear technology is widely used in various industries in Botswana. It is evident that Botswana stands to benefit significantly from this technology and therefore efforts are being put in place to maximise the use of this technology and promote its safe and peaceful uses. We are confident that with this unwavering support, we shall achieve the five milestones set out by the Agency.**

**Permit me, therefore, to thank the IAEA for the Technical Co-operation Programmes being implemented for the benefit of the people of Botswana and the warm and cordial relationship that exists between the IAEA and my country. Indeed the benefits derived from the Agency's Technical Co-operation programmes bear testimony to the relevance of nuclear applications in solving some of the challenges of developing countries.**

**Madam President**

**In the ongoing efforts to manage HIV/AIDS, research initiatives with the assistance of the IAEA on food and nutrition intervention techniques using stable isotopes are highly appreciated. We are confident that these endeavors will bear fruit in the not so distant future.**

**Madam President**

**Botswana's Country Program Framework is being reviewed to provide for better focus of Technical Co-operation between my country and the IAEA, and to align it to the National Development Plan 10. We are committed to finalizing the new CPF before the start of the 2010 – 2011 project cycle so that it forms the basis for project proposals in the new cycle.**

**Madam President,**

**We look forward to working closely with the Agency in the implementation of the ongoing and future projects. And on this note, 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 mandate.**

**I thank you for your attention.**