



**Republic of Zambia**

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**TO THE  
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**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Madam President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Zambian delegation, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address this session. I would like to join other previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the Presidency of the fifty-third (53<sup>rd</sup>) Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Zambian delegation has every confidence that through your leadership, deliberations of this important conference will be successfully concluded.

We welcome to the membership of the Agency, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda. It is our expectation that they will be valuable members of the organisation and our hope that they will benefit greatly from their IAEA membership.

**Madam President**

We pay tribute to the outgoing Director General Dr Mohamed El Baradei who has steered this Agency to what it is today, noting that under his leadership the profile of the Agency has risen significantly. We also thank him for his dedication and commitment to international peace.

Zambia would like to congratulate Ambassador Yukiya Amano on his appointment as the next Director General of the Agency. In congratulating Ambassador Amano on his appointment, we note with satisfaction that he has represented the people and Government of Japan on the IAEA Board of Governors and therefore understands the operations of the Agency. Zambia is confident that he will execute the demanding duties of Director-General efficiently and effectively.

**Madam President**

The issue of nuclear proliferation continues to be of great concern. The statements by the American President Mr. Barack Obama and his Russian Federation counterpart Mr Dmitry Medvedev affirming their commitments to non-proliferation and achieving a nuclear weapons free world are therefore welcome and Zambia hopes this will be followed by definite and concrete action. The proposed *Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty* between Russia and the USA, and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are ideas that ought to have been implemented yesterday rather than being discussed today. Zambia therefore urges those 'Annex two' States on whom the entry into force of the CTBT is dependent to live up to their international

obligations. Zambia is however, happy that Africa is now a nuclear weapons free zone following the coming into force of the Pelindaba Treaty on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Zambia is actively in the process of acceding to the Treaty.

The outgoing Director General of the Agency Dr. Mohamed El Baradei did pose a question during the NATO Conference held in July this year on whether our global security system was going to be based on narrow geo-political interests or a global system based on human solidarity and the value of human life. The only satisfactory answer is the one that is broad in nature and devoid of selfish motives. It is therefore imperative that the non-proliferation question should be dealt with in a manner devoid of selfish motives.

**Madam President,**

The Zambian delegation notes with great interest and satisfaction the measures the Agency is putting in place which are aimed at strengthening the Technical Cooperation activities with the member states; especially developing states like Zambia. These measures are critical to the development process of these states. My delegation is also pleased with the efforts of the Agency in providing assistance in issues of Energy Planning and Management among the member states. Energy is the driving engine for development hence its development and management is critical.

**Madam President,**

I wish to indicate that Zambia continues to build on past achievements in the technical cooperation programme with the Agency and I am happy to report that since the last General Conference, several developments have taken place including:

- i. The development of the new five year term Country programme Framework which will guide our technical Cooperation activities with the Agency as from 2010 to 2014.
- ii. The development and application of the legal framework in uranium mining with the support of the Agency; and
- iii. The strengthening of capacities in Cancer Diseases treatment, Nuclear medicine, livestock productivity, animal nutrition support services and monitoring of nutrition

intervention programmes through human resources development as well as provision of equipment.

However, despite these positive developments, Zambia is still facing a number of challenges. The key challenges include delays in establishing an autonomous and effective Radiation Protection Agency due to resource constraints (both human and financial) and the limited capacity for monitoring the mining of Uranium and other radioactive minerals or mining activities within the country. We therefore require the assistance of the IAEA and other bilateral collaborators in addressing these key challenges.

**Madam President,**

The Zambian delegation wishes to reiterate its support to the Agency's technical cooperation activities within the framework of the Africa Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA). I wish to congratulate AFRA on its twentieth anniversary and for enhancing technical cooperation among member states within the region.

Zambia continues to receive expert missions especially on the radiotherapy as well as radiation protection and isotope hydrology from AFRA member states. I wish to state my country's commitment to honouring Zambia's outstanding obligations towards the AFRA Fund so that important projects are funded.

**Madam President,**

In conclusion, Zambia wishes to pledge her full share of the assessed voluntary contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund for the year 2010 as well as the AFRA Fund for the years 2009 and 2010.

**Thank you for your attention and God Bless you all.**