



Republic of Botswana

STATEMENT BY THE
PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MR. DIKAGISO B. MOKOTEDI

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

TO THE 60TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

26-30, September 2016

- Mr. President;
- Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Yukiya Amano;
- Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Heads of Missions and International Organizations
- Distinguished Delegates

1.0 It is an honour and privilege for me to address the 60th regular session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference on behalf of the Botswana delegation. Mr President, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of this year's General Conference. I would like to assure you of Botswana's full cooperation in making it a success.

2.0 Mr. President,

I also wish to congratulate and welcome the countries of Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and the Islamic State of the Gambia as new members of the Agency. We are confident that the countries will make a positive contribution to the Agency and we assure them of our firm support so that they enjoy the

rewards of this strategic partnership. Let me also use this opportunity to commend the Director General Yukiya Amano and his staff for their dedication, professionalism and excellent work.

3.0 Mr President,

My delegation is happy to join the rest of the member states in celebrating the 60 years Anniversary of the Agency. We have noted with a high degree of satisfaction the growth and achievements attained by the Agency over the years. Through the technical cooperation with the Agency, Botswana also has some successes in the beneficial use of nuclear technology which have made significant socio-economic impacts. Three (3) national technical cooperation projects from my country are being publicized as success stories of projects funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency with significant impacts. The projects are on diagnosis of animal diseases using nuclear derived techniques, using Nuclear Science to Control Animal Diseases, and Ensure Food Safety, and on environmental radioactivity monitoring.

4.0 Mr President,

The support we received from the Agency in the area of Nuclear Security is also commendable as we had the opportunity to review our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan with the help of the Agency. We are committed to the implementation of the plan and the necessary structures are being put in place, and so far the Nuclear Security Committee has been appointed. There is great momentum in ensuring the implementation of the plan with several activities planned in the current year. We are also working in earnest to review legislation to fully address the nuclear security and security requirements.

5.0 Mr President

Botswana remains committed to the implementation of relevant international instruments in relation to nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards. The function of the Agency as the centre of the international safeguards system is commendable. Botswana believes that effective Safeguards make a significant contribution to maintaining public confidence and strongly advocate for total ban in nuclear testing.

Botswana therefore joins the international community in condemning continued nuclear weapon testing by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which poses threats and undermines peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

6.0 Mr. President,

Botswana is fully committed to the ideals and objectives of the Agency. It is for this reason that Botswana continues to honour her financial obligations to the Agency to allow for the successful implementation of the Agency mandate. I am happy to announce that Botswana has fully paid the annual contributions for the year 2016.

7.0 Mr. President,

Permit me to 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. We know that the Agency has limited financial resources to meet the diverse challenges and expanding demands in the safe use of nuclear

technology for development. However, Botswana like many other African Member States still needs support and assistance in use of appropriate nuclear technologies for socio-economic development, for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

8.0 Mr President

As Botswana celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Independence on the 30th September 2016, we stand committed to enhancing the lives of Batswana through nuclear technology for development. The national strategy, Vision 2036, has just been completed and will provide anchorage on sustainable development goals to address food security, cancer management, energy and animal health.

9.0 Mr President

The establishment of the Radiotherapy Center is inevitable, to provide a sustainable, cost saving and convenient solution on cancer treatment in the country. We have been facing challenges due to deficit in expertise that is required in cancer management. With the support of the Agency Botswana is upgrading

and strengthening the human resource skills and capabilities to provide the much needed treatment and management.

10.0 Mr President

My country and some parts of the SADC region are susceptible to droughts which affect food security and water supplies, hence the need to have varieties of crops with high productivity in drought and low nutrients environment. We still need a lot of support in this area. We appreciate the great support we are receiving in the management of fruit flies which is one of the most destructive insect pests of fruits and vegetables around the world and have a huge impact on Botswana agriculture.

11.0 Mr President

Botswana is also beneficiaries of the National and Regional Projects supported by the Agency. The transfer of scientific and technical knowledge through fellowships, scientific visits and workshops is in this regard a very important mechanism essential for projects success. Since Botswana has also gained

considerable experience in some areas we welcome other countries' professionals to come to Botswana on scientific visits and fellowships.

12.0 Mr President

Botswana continues to benefit from the Regional Cooperation in the use of nuclear technology through the African Regional Cooperation for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) programme. This year we have benefited from expert missions, trainings and workshops in order to build capacity in the fields of agriculture; human health; energy development; radiation protection and safety; food and Nutrition. Botswana reiterates its commitment to this cooperation in order to contribute to socio-economic development in the African Region. We are thankful to the Agency for its continual support for the success of this programme.

13.0 Mr President,

To strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of the management system of the regulatory body, we are in the process of accrediting it to ISO 9001. We are also awaiting in anticipation for the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission in 2017, which is expected to further strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of our regulatory infrastructure.

14.0 Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Agency for the continued support and assistance to ensure that Botswana benefits from the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Thank you.