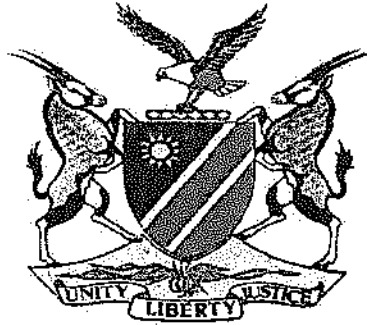


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

**HON. OBETH MBUI KANDJOZE
MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY**

**60th SESSION OF THE
IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**26-30 SEPTEMBER 2016,
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

Mr. President,

The Namibian delegation joins other speakers before me to congratulate you, H.E. Adnan Bin Othman, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, on the assumption of the presidency of the 60th Session of the IAEA General Conference. At the onset the Namibian delegation would like to observe the 60 years of existence of the Agency and the commemorations planned to this end.

I pledge the support and cooperation of the Namibian delegation for a successful conference. We would also like to thank H.E. Filippo Formica, for a successful 59th Regular Session.

The Namibian delegation also welcomes the membership of the Turkmenistan, the Islamic Republic of Gambia, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, who joined the Agency this year.

Mr. President,

Namibia appreciates the IAEA and the role of nuclear technology as an important vehicle to provide meaningful interventions in our social and economic development agenda and at the same time promoting global safety and security. We greatly value the Agency's interventions that are directed to meet the basic needs of our people, i.e. interventions that promote quality of health; enhance food security; create opportunities for people to participate in economic development which will add value to the lives of the people; intellectually empower citizens to pursue a

dignified and self-sustaining life.

Namibia continues to stress the importance of a results driven approach which addresses the real needs of member states by safely investigating and deploying nuclear science and technology methods in national programmes.

To this end, Namibia commends the progress made on the Renewal Project on the renovations being done at the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf and welcomes the collective pledges made by AFRA (*African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology*), which totaled approximately 13.2million Euros.

Mr. President,

In the spirit of the events planned for the 60th Anniversary of the IAEA, I would now like to turn to Nuclear Science and technology and how nuclear technologies can help Member States achieve SDGs (*Sustainable Development Goals*), through the application of atoms for peace and development. We are trusting that Country Programme Framework (CPF) will deepen our collaboration and serves as a building block to ensure that we attain our aspirations with regard to the deployment of nuclear technology in the context of our national development priorities.

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the report of the Director-General on the *Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy* and in particular the Agency's proactive role in enhancing its positive contribution to the fight against the global burden of cancer. We take note of the progress made with regard to the cancer care capacity by integrating radiotherapy into a comprehensive cancer control programme. Namibia being equally affected by the upsurge in cancer morbidity and mortality, we look forward to draw from the expertise of the IAEA to develop and implement a responsive strategic agenda to maximize therapeutic effectiveness in the public health sector, including the National Cancer Prevention and Control Strategy and Resource Mobilization Strategy.

Mr. President,

We are encouraged by the positive technological developments, especially in the field of crop mutation to create drought resistant and high yielding crops, and the technology to improve the nutrient efficiency in crop production. We have already observed important characteristics in the crops that have been developed as a result of this nuclear technology and we therefore cannot but emphasize the need to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of the Agency in this area of work.

Namibia is facing a severe drought, which recurs every 3 to 5 years; hence we urge the agency to assist and to strengthen

technologies for harnessing water resources. In this regard welcome the nuclear techniques such as desalination and the study of underground water resources using isotopic techniques.

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the proposed agenda of the IAEA towards contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed SDGs are more ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and hence call for radical and ambitious interventions if we are to achieve these goals this time around. As an African Union Member, Namibia fully supports the implementation of Agenda 2063, Africa's blueprint for sustainable development over the next 50 years. We will support the realization of the First Ten Year Action Plan Agenda 2063, with specific focus on priority areas of consolidating peace and security, infrastructure development, improving governance and education systems as well as food security. We encourage the Agency to assist Member States in achieving their national goals in terms of SDG's. Namibia strongly believes that the Technical Cooperation Programme is an important mechanism to enhance the development of social and economic priorities, hence sustainable and assured funding of the technical cooperation programme, especially now that we are changing geared towards addressing the many sustainable development goals.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power remains a viable option for many developing countries including our own, Namibia, to ensure energy security for sustainable development. Our delegation takes note and with great interest the progress made with regard to supporting the development and deployment of small and medium sized reactors, recognizing their potential for enhancing energy supply security both in countries that are expanding existing nuclear power programmes and in newcomer countries is important for Namibia.

Furthermore our intentions regarding the extraction, processing and value addition to uranium ore products is well articulated. Namibia is the fifth largest Uranium producing country in the world and we believe that it is the right thing to do by pursuing beneficiation of this raw product and by so doing enhance industrial development, employment creation, skills development, foreign direct investment. We therefore remain open and ready to dialogue with the Agency and to seek synergistic collaboration with like-minded partners.

Mr. President,

As we embark upon the enlargement and acceleration of nuclear technology to our developmental efforts, we equally remain committed to strengthening our legislative and regulatory infrastructure and therefore welcome the Agency's initiatives

such as the integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and the International Regulatory Review Services.

Additionally, Namibia supports the entry into force of the Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in May of this year. Namibia is in the process of finalizing the ratification amendment to the Convention and will accede before the end of 2016. The entry into force and its implementation will strengthen the global nuclear security regime and disarmament.

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the regular reports on the progress made on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Nuclear Activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The world has once again seen that through diplomatic negotiations much can be achieved. Our delegation would however like to warn that budget adjustments should not impede on the other promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency and should be implemented in letter and spirit and in line with the statutory objectives of the Agency, which seeks to accelerate the contribution of the atomic energy for peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.

At this juncture Namibia would like to call on all Annex 2 states to follow in the footsteps of Iran and fulfill their multilateral obligations and promote a nuclear weapons free world through non-proliferation, we therefore urge all to fully cooperate with the

IAEA.

In conclusion Namibia's delegation looks forward to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Security planned for the end of this year.

I thank you