



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**ZAMBIA'S STATEMENT TO
THE 60TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(IAEA)**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

26TH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

Statement delivered by

**Her Excellency Ambassador Mrs. Encyla Tina Chishiba Sinjela
Permanent Representative to the IAEA**

ZAMBIA

MR. PRESIDENT

ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION, I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THIS IMPORTANT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, I JOIN ALL OTHER PREVIOUS SPEAKERS IN CONGRATULATING YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY DATO' ADNAN OTHMAN ON YOUR ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 60TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA).

MY DELEGATION AND I HAVE THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ABLE LEADERSHIP AND ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT YOU WILL GUIDE THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE TO ITS SUCCESSFUL END.

I ALSO WISH TO THANK THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. YUKIYA AMANO, FOR HIS ABLE AND WISE LEADERSHIP AND THAT ZAMBIA WILL SUPPORT HIS CANDIDATURE TO CONTINUE AT THE AGENCY FOR ANOTHER TERM.

MR. PRESIDENT

ZAMBIA JOINS THE REST OF THE IAEA FAMILY IN WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBERS THAT HAVE JOINED THE AGENCY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS THESE BEING ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, BARBADOS AND TURKMENISTAN.

IN ADDITION, MR. PRESIDENT, I ALSO JOIN OTHER MEMBER STATES IN WELCOMING THE APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF SAINT LUCIA, SAINT VINCENT AND GRENADINES, AND THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF GAMBIA. THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE IAEA MEMBERSHIP SHOWS THE CONFIDENCE THAT COUNTRIES HAVE IN THE AGENCY.

I WISH TO ASSURE THE NEW MEMBERS THAT THEY WILL FIND SUPPORT, MUTUAL RESPECT, AND PROGRESSIVENESS AS THE TENETS ON WHICH OUR BIG NUCLEAR FAMILY IS PREMISED AND I URGE THEM TO FOLLOW THESE TENETS IN THEIR

ENDEAVOR TO BE MEMBERS OF THE IAEA. I ALSO WISH TO INFORM OUR NEW BROTHERS THAT THE FAMILY YOU HAVE JOINED IS FOCUSED ON HARNESSING NUCLEAR SCIENCE FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF ALL PEOPLE.

IT IS A FAMILY THAT ENCOURAGES THE PEACEFUL AND SAFE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY THROUGH THE PHILOSOPHY OF "ATOMS FOR PEACE."

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA IS AT A CRUCIAL STAGE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. THE USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES CONTINUES TO EXPAND IN ZAMBIA IN VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, RADIATION PROTECTION, MINING AND INDUSTRY. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AND SUSTAIN THE APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, ZAMBIA HAS EMBARKED ON A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES SUCH AS LOCAL HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. ZAMBIA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CALL UPON THE IAEA TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO ACTUALIZE THESE ASPIRATIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD ON PREVIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME WITH THE AGENCY AND I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT OUR IMPLEMENTATION RATE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY RISEN SINCE THE LAST GENERAL CONFERENCE. A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN MY COUNTRY, WHICH AMONG OTHERS INCLUDE:

1.0 RADIATION PROTECTION

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF ZAMBIA HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNMENT TO OVERSEE THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS, THE PUBLIC AND THE ENVIRONMENT FROM HARMFUL EFFECTS OF IONISING RADIATION. THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF THE RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY THROUGH INCREASED FUNDING AND RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICAL STAFF IN A PHASED APPROACH.

THE RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY HAS STARTED THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THE CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK. THE REVIEW IS AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN ORDER TO INCLUDE OTHER ASPECTS OF REGULATION WHICH ARE NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE CURRENT LEGISLATION

IN ADDITION, ZAMBIA HAS BEGUN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR CALIBRATION AND INSTRUMENTATION FOR RADIATION DETECTION EQUIPMENT. IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THE IAEA WILL SUPPORT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR.

ZAMBIA'S TECHNICAL STAFF HAVE RECEIVED TRAINING IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE REGULATORY FUNCTION. THIS YEAR, ZAMBIA HOSTED TWO IAEA EXPERT MISSIONS AND PARTICIPATED IN THREE SCIENTIFIC VISITS. FURTHER, THROUGH TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM THE IAEA, ZAMBIA HAS ACQUIRED CORE EQUIPMENT. THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE TO A GREATER EXTENT ENHANCED THE REGULATORY FUNCTIONS IN REGULATING CURRENT AND UPCOMING RADIOTHERAPY FACILITIES, RESEARCH CENTRES, MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS OTHER RELEVANT APPLICATIONS.

MR. PRESIDENT,

UNDER THE 2018 – 2019 TC CYCLE, ZAMBIA PLANNED TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL RADIATION SURVEY THAT WILL ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL RADIATION DOSE BASELINE. THIS WILL PROVIDE A BASELINE FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF UP-COMING ACTIVITIES AND ENHANCE THE CURRENT MONITORING ACTIVITIES.

2. STRENGTHENING OF ONCOLOGIC SERVICES IN ZAMBIA

THROUGH NATIONAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE IAEA'S TC PROGRAM, ZAMBIA OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS FIRST RT CENTRE, CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL (CDH) IN JULY 2007.

THE HOSPITAL HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RADIATION THERAPY AND CHEMOTHERAPY SERVICES. OVER 13,000 NEW CANCER CASES HAVE BEEN RECORDED SINCE INCEPTION. THE IN-PATIENT SERVICE HAS LED TO IMPROVED PATIENT CARE AND ACCESS TO RADIOTHERAPY

OF NOTE, AMONG THE MANY ACHIEVEMENTS IS THE COMPLETION OF PHASE II OF CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING OPERATIONALISED AND IS SOON TO BE OFFICIALLY COMMISSIONED. MR PRESIDENT, ZAMBIA PROPOSES TO BUILD TWO (2) MORE RADIOTHERAPY CENTRES- ONE IN THE NORTHERN AND IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO RADIATION THERAPY AND CHEMOTHERAPY SERVICES. IN ADDITION, A DEDICATED THEATRE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN THE CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL WILL ENHANCE CANCER MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE PROVISION OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY SERVICES.

IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND REVERSE THE INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE OF CANCER, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO EXPANDING CANCER PREVENTION

AND CONTROL PROGRAMS COUNTRY-WIDE, WHILE ENSURING FINANCIAL STABILITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY SERVICES FOR ALL CLIENTS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. ZAMBIA IS ALSO STRENGTHENING THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR SCIENCES THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A NUCLEAR MEDICINE DEPARTMENT AT THE CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL THAT WILL LEAD TO IMPROVED DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC CAPACITIES.

FURTHER MR PRESIDENT, A NEW WING TO HOUSE A TRAINING CENTRE THAT WILL SUPPORT LOCAL TRAINING COURSES FOR NURSES, CLINICAL AND RADIATION ONCOLOGISTS AS WELL AS MEDICAL PHYSICISTS IS BEING PROPOSED. THIS, MR PRESIDENT, WILL NOT ONLY LOWER THE COST OF TRAINING ABROAD BUT WILL ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF TRAINING THE CRITICAL MASS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE DECENTRALISATION OF ONCOLOGY SERVICES

MR. PRESIDENT, ALL THIS PROGRESS THAT ZAMBIA HAS ACHIEVED IS NOT WITHOUT THE TIMELY INPUT FROM THE IAEA TECHNICAL COOPERATION THROUGH WELL TAILOR-DESIGNED NATIONAL PROJECTS THAT HAVE OVER THE YEARS IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY AT THE CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL.

IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA ENVISAGES CONTINUED SUPPORT AS IT EMBARKS ON THE EXPANSION OF CANCER TREATMENT SERVICES.

3.0 COUNTERPART FUNDING MECHANISM FOR IAEA SUPPORTED PROJECTS

ZAMBIA HAS ESTABLISHED A FUNDING WINDOW WITHIN THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND TO PROVIDE LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDING FOR PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. THE COUNTERPART FUNDING SUPPORTS OPERATIONAL COSTS FOR ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE RESEARCH PROJECT.

THIS SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE SO AS TO NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE COOPERATION WITH THE IAEA BUT ALSO TO DEMONSTRATE THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S

COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE SAFE AND SUSTAINED USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT,

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CONGRATULATE THE IAEA ON ATTAINING 60 YEARS IN ITS ENDEAVOR OF PROMOTING THE SAFE AND PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MAKING IT AVAILABLE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY. THIS HAS MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN ZAMBIA AND WHOLE WORLD.

MR. PRESIDENT,

IN THE CONTEXT OF AFRA PROGRAMMES, ZAMBIA LOOKS FORWARD TO IMPROVED COLLABORATION WITH AFRA. I MUST HASTEN TO MENTION THAT ZAMBIA IS KEEN TO ESTABLISH THE NUCLEAR SCIENCE INSTITUTE DEDICATED TO TRAINING YOUNG ZAMBIAN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THIS INSTITUTE WILL ALSO COMPLEMENT AND ENHANCE ACTIVITIES AT OUR ALREADY ESTABLISHED COLLEGE OF RADIATION THERAPY AND RADIATION ONCOLOGY.

IN THIS EFFORT, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE IAEA AND AFRA.

MR. PRESIDENT

IN CONCLUSION, ALLOW ME TO REITERATE MY COUNTRY'S RESOLVE ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION THAT CONTINUES TO BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO ALL. AS A COUNTRY, IT IS OUR HOPE AND DESIRE THAT THE IAEA IS SUPPORTED IN ENSURING THAT THE APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS IS DONE IN THE MOST FAIR AND COMPREHENSIVE MANNER IN ORDER TO COME TO A JUST CONCLUSION FOR ALL INVOLVED.

MR. PRESIDENT,

ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE IAEA AND AFRA PROGRAMMES WITH OUR FULL PAYMENT OF THE ASSESSED VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND THE AFRA FUNDS.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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