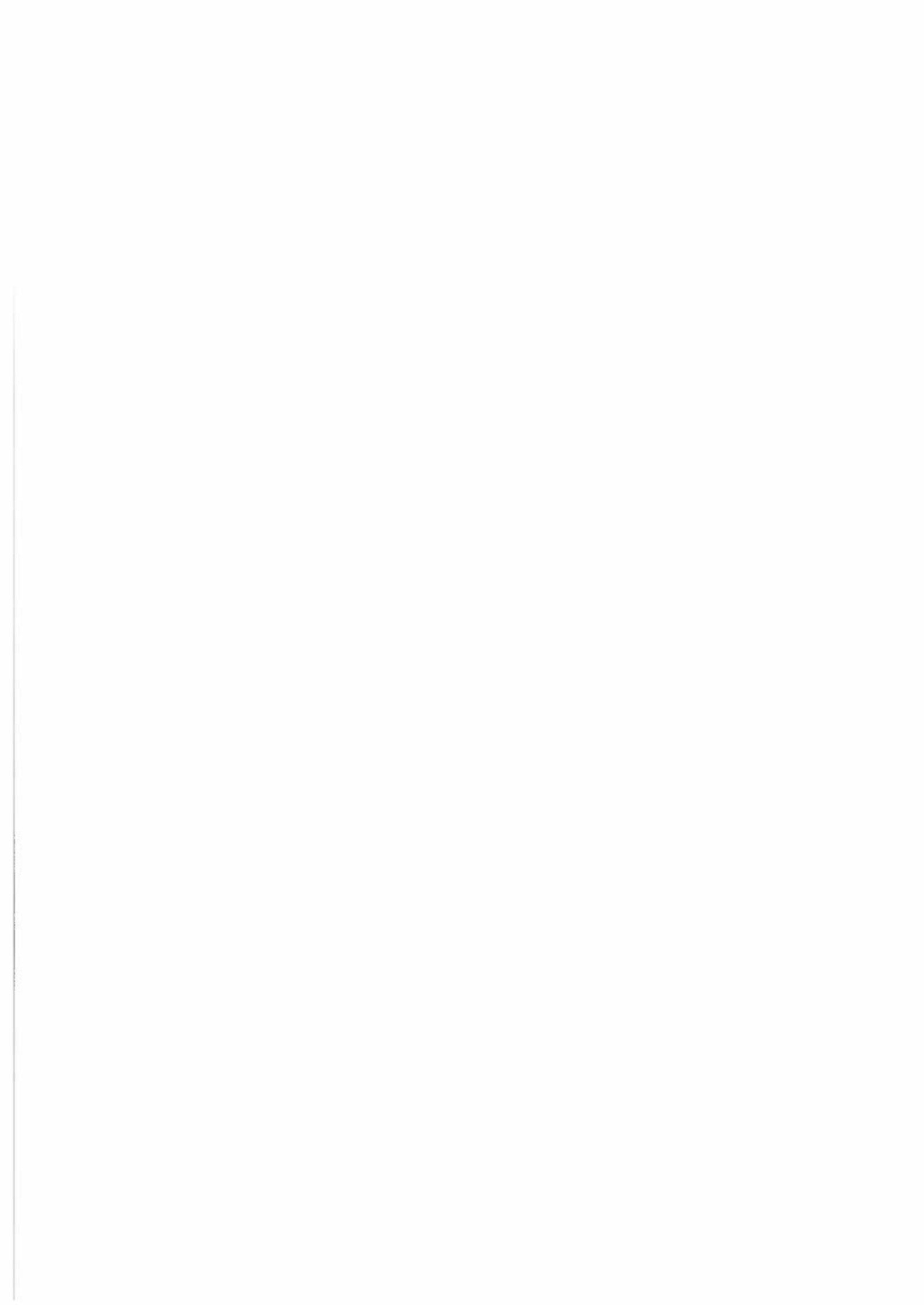




Statement by Hon. Obeth Kandjoze: Minister of Mines and  
Energy of the Republic of Namibia at the IAEA Nuclear  
Security Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Vienna, Austria

At the onset the Namibian delegation wishes to congratulate you Your Excellency Yun Nyung-se, for assuming the presidency of this very important meeting. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the two Co-Chairs, the distinguished Ambassador Abel Ayoko, of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and H.E. Song Young-wan, of the Republic of Korea.

Namibia is signatory to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in connection with the NPT and Protocol Additional to the Safeguards Agreement. The country established the Namibian Atomic Energy Board in February 2009.



Namibia is therefore committed to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, where nations and peoples can live in peace and harmony and we welcome the entry into force of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty - the Pelindaba Treaty.

Namibia has large uranium resources and we cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to achieve a strong policy framework for a safe and efficient nuclear policy for peaceful purposes only.

It is the expressed decision of the Namibian Government to seriously consider the development of nuclear power in order to complete the national energy mix and provide sufficient energy for our developmental needs. Given our uranium resources and our Government's decision to add value to uranium ore, nuclear security is increasingly becoming vital to our production processes.

Namibia therefore appreciates the IAEA's support and the role of nuclear technology as important vehicles to provide meaningful interventions in our social and economic development agenda and at the same time promoting global safety and security. Nuclear safety and nuclear security



considerations should however not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including through the Technical Cooperation Programme. This can be managed by having the appropriate balance between promotional and other statutory activities of the Agency.

However, the Namibian delegation encourages the Agency to continue to promote cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives and strengthen coordination mechanisms to provide targeted, effective assistance to States for building capacity to implement, maintain and sustain nuclear security systems and measures to detect and respond to nuclear security events.

Additionally, Namibia welcomes the entry into force of the Amendments to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in May of this year. The entry into force and its implementation will strengthen the global nuclear security regime.

- To this end the Cabinet of the Republic of Namibia has approved the ratification of the Amendments of the



Physical protection of Nuclear Material and is awaiting Parliamentary approval during the first quarter of 2017.

- The Namibian delegation notes with appreciation the IAEA's continued efforts to strengthen the nuclear security framework globally and support nuclear security regimes nationally, while coordinating assistance and support for nuclear security worldwide. Our gathering here this week is testament to the political will Namibia places on the promotion of nuclear security.
- Unlike the previous Nuclear Security Summits, the Namibian delegation is pleased to note that this years Conference open to all IAEA Members States.

Namibia reasserts that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, in accordance with its respective national and international obligations, to maintain at all times effective and comprehensive nuclear security of all nuclear and other radioactive material under its control, including nuclear material used for military purposes, which constitutes, 80-85% of the sensitive material and





remains outside international nuclear security instruments while only 15-20% are under safeguards. The Namibian delegation welcomes the information released by some States on their policies to ensure the security of such material and call for further voluntary measures in this field.

Namibia reaffirms the common goals of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, recognize that nuclear security contributes to international peace and security, and stress that progress in nuclear disarmament is critically needed and will continue to be addressed in all relevant fora, consistent with the relevant obligations and commitments of Member States.

