



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT BY
THE HEAD OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION,
HON. HENRY ORYEM OKELLO, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS / INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DURING THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY:
COMMITMENT AND ACTIONS,
DECEMBER 05 - 09, 2016
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, VIENNA AUSTRIA**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Ugandan delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of this International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions. Please be assured of Uganda's support for the success of this Conference.

I also seize the opportunity to thank the Director General Yukiya Amano for hosting this Conference which will avail an opportunity to all Agency Member States to re-evaluate their commitments and actions towards enhancing the global nuclear security regime.

Mr. President,

The peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology plays a pivotal role in supporting socio-economic development and I am convinced that its application in the various sectors such as; energy, oil and gas, industry, food and agriculture, human health, water resources management will facilitate the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. President,

We are aware that each Member State has the responsibility of ensuring and maintaining nuclear security, but achieving the global nuclear security regime requires universal adherence to international obligations. I therefore, wish to applaud the Agency for its international coordination role in enhancing nuclear security regime and for monitoring and safeguarding nuclear material to ensure that peaceful nuclear endeavours do not result in nuclear terrorism and nuclear weapons proliferation.

As a country embarking on the nuclear power programme, we appreciate the Agency's role in facilitating the entry into force this year, of the "**Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities**". This amendment to the 1980 Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) establishes, among others; the framework for cooperation between states to reduce the risk of criminal or terrorist incidents involving nuclear materials and/or nuclear facilities. Uganda is making efforts towards acceding to the Convention as amended.

I wish to reaffirm Uganda's commitment to the global fight against the threat of nuclear terrorism and other forms of terrorism in all their manifestations, and our support to multilateral efforts to advance a common approach and commitment to nuclear security at the highest level possible. Uganda accords high priority to all global efforts towards strengthening the legal & regulatory framework for nuclear security at the national and international level.

Mr. President,

Following the successful International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts held in Vienna, Austria in July 2013, Uganda has taken a number of steps necessary to strengthen the nuclear security architecture. For instance, with support from the Agency, Uganda developed the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) to ensure safety and security of nuclear materials and other radioactive sources. To this end, Uganda updated the national registry of sources and continues to look out for any orphaned radiation sources to ensure that all radiation sources are under regulatory control.

In the area of performing oversight, Uganda undertakes regular security inspections of facilities to ensure that materials are secured. The inspections are regular and routine in nature and the inspectors benefit from the requisite training organised locally and by the Agency. To this end, Uganda has proposed establishment of a Nuclear Security Support Centre which will support human capacity development in the area of nuclear security. The Centre will actively interact with the Agency and other relevant international organizations to develop and undertake training programmes for stakeholder organizations.

Mr. President,

Uganda also conducts various training and retraining programmes for its Frontline Officers from the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda Police Force, Uganda Immigration Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs among others. I therefore, take this opportunity to thank the Agency for all its forms of support including; training, provision of equipment and technical advice through expert mission and training courses on Illicit trafficking/border monitoring, nuclear security, physical protection of nuclear material and facilities. These measures have enhanced the capability of our officers to respond to unauthorized acts involving nuclear and other radioactive materials.

Finally, Mr President,

Let me re-echo the shared concern that nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. Therefore, preventing nuclear terrorism and all forms of terrorism around the globe require continued evaluation of international obligations and actions. Uganda will cooperate with those working towards enhancing nuclear security.

I thank you, Mr. President