

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT  
BY  
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62<sup>ND</sup> IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

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**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Madam President,

The Namibian delegation joins other speakers to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference. Namibia welcomes the work of the Agency and the Annual Reports on measures to strengthen Agency's Activities related to Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications; the Strengthening of the Agency Safeguards Regime; the Nuclear Security Report; and the Report on Nuclear, Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety.

Specifically, we commend the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) as a fundamental instrument that assist African Member States to fully participate in the IAEA's Scope of Work.

The potential of Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications is well recognised as means to accelerate the attainment of some of the SDGs including good health and wellbeing; achieving food security; improving nutrition; promoting sustainable agriculture; sustainable management of water; energy security; combating climate change and preserving the environment.

These are also some of the national priority areas for Namibia to which the IAEA is contributing. We are seeking and calling for increased and enhanced contribution of nuclear technology and improvement on resource allocation to these priority areas.

Madam President,

Our National Development Policies and Plans are key instruments that drive sustainable development. It is, therefore, imperative to integrate nuclear science and technology in our national development agenda and interventions. We have articulated our intentions in our Nuclear Science and Technology Policy as well as in our Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy. Furthermore, we have articulated and expressed our ambition to develop national nuclear science research, development and innovation capacity. We welcome opportunities that can promote this agenda, including the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, which is scheduled to take place from 28<sup>th</sup> to

*30<sup>th</sup> November 2018, here in Vienna.* We look forward to the engagements and outcome of this important Conference. We are indeed keen for resolutions and recommendations on nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful uses, and their delivery to Members States mainly through the Agency's technical cooperation and future contribution to the sustainable development goals.

The benefits of nuclear technology and applications for agriculture, food security, health and water resources management cannot be overemphasized. Thus, nuclear technology transfer and the Agency's support to enhance research and development activities in collaboration with institutions of higher learning, relevant agencies as well as regional networks, remain a high priority in many African countries. This is critical to building capacity, enhancing and preserving nuclear knowledge, and harnessing this resource for the benefit of humanity.

Madam President

We are very pleased with the approach that the technical department has adopted in assisting Members States with specific projects for technology transfer. This approach combines the IAEA's competitive technical expertise in the subject matter through its network of collaborators to address the needs of Member States. We have seen this with the development of bankable project documents such as for development of radiotherapy services and the Agency's assistance in resources mobilisation. We encourage the IAEA to strengthen this modality, going forward.

Madam President,

Support to uranium mining Member States covering all aspects of the uranium production cycle, from exploration, mining and processing, to mine closures and site remediation, including the best-practice guidelines for the various stages of uranium production is highly appreciated.

Madam President

Namibia attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security and fully understands that it is a national responsibility. In this regard, Namibia has adopted IAEA's safety standards in the National Legislation and Regulations for control

and regulation of radiation sources, nuclear and radioactive material. Although we have made great strides in reviewing and developing our current regulatory infrastructure to conform to international standards and increase adherence to the relevant international legal instruments and conventions, much work remains to be done with the IAEA's support. We, therefore, welcome and call for the strengthening of the interactive approach to the regular, continuous and objective assessment of regulatory infrastructure with commensurate interventions.

Madam President,

Nuclear energy will continue to be a competitive technology, especially in the context of global interests to preserve the environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In this context, Namibia is taking note of the growing demand for nuclear energy. For developing and mid-income countries, energy demand and economic growth are intrinsically linked. As such, in terms of strategies to grow our economies and combat unemployment, nuclear energy should be explored as a viable option in our national energy mix.

In this regard, Namibia wishes to see more local value addition in the nuclear fuel cycle. Yes, we are cognizant of the imperative to maintain high standard of nuclear safety, security and safeguarding nuclear material. It is for this reason that we have always reaffirmed our commitment to strengthen Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards regime, including the improvement and strengthening of our regulatory and institutional infrastructure in line with the IAEA recommendations and standards.

I thank you Madam President.