



GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT AT THE
THE 62ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE
HELD IN
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

17TH TO 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2018

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

**DR. ROLAND MSISKA, SECRETARY TO THE CABINET
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

Madam President,

On behalf of the republic of Zambia, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address this conference. I would also like to congratulate you on your election as president of the 62nd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference and assure you of Zambia's support to your presidency.

Madam President,

My delegation would like to commend the agency for its efforts in strengthening and accelerating the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Over the 49 years that Zambia has been a member of the agency, the country has been utilizing nuclear science and technology which has contributed substantially to socio economic development.

As part of our nuclear programme, Zambia has continued to implement initiatives aimed at developing human resource capacity, in areas such as nuclear safety, security and safeguards, health, industry, energy, regulatory infrastructure, food and agriculture, among others. In this regard, Zambia would like to thank the IAEA for the technical support provided in these areas.

As we continue to implement these initiatives, we call on the continued support of the IAEA in human resource development as well as other national programmes in the peaceful, safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology.

Madam President,

Zambia also wishes to acknowledge the support from the agency in the framework of the Africa regional cooperative agreement for research development and training related to nuclear science and technology.

Madam President,

The Republic of Zambia recognises that in order to effectively achieve the objectives of implementing nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, there is need to adhere to the relevant international legal instruments adopted under the IAEA framework.

In this regard, Zambia has identified the key international legal instruments which require ratification. These instruments are currently under legislative review.

Further, I am pleased to report that Zambia has simplified the procedure for ratification by enacting the ratification of international agreements act number 34 of 2016. Consequently, the stages for ratification now only involve obtaining of the approval of cabinet and subsequent approval of the national assembly before submission to the official depository of the IAEA. I am therefore confident that the process of ratifying the relevant international legal instruments will be implemented expeditiously.

Madam President,

I am also pleased to report that the process of transforming and relocating the radiation protection authority as an independent regulatory institution has reached an advanced stage. In this regard, Zambia has developed the national nuclear and radiation safety bill which is the comprehensive nuclear law for the peaceful, safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology. It is our intention to have the bill enacted within the year 2019.

Madam President,

The nuclear science and technology programme in Zambia is structured in a phased manner as follows:

The first phase is the establishment of a centre for nuclear science and technology in Zambia which will facilitate building institutional and human capacity in the application of nuclear

technologies. This is in addition to other benefits which the facility will provide; and

The second phase is the construction of a nuclear power plant as part of the diversified energy mix.

Madam President,

Implementation of the nuclear science and technology programme in Zambia is based on the milestone approach as prescribed by the IAEA. This is a critical prerequisite for successful implementation of the program.

I would like to thank the IAEA director general Mr. Amano for his continued stewardship of the agency as director general. Zambia appreciates his remarkable and competent leadership. Allow me to also thank him for his support and visit to Zambia in January 2018. His visit reassured Zambia of IAEA support and provided us with renewed enthusiasm to pursue the nuclear programme. I wish to join earlier speakers in wishing him a quick and full recovery.

Madam President,

Let me take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities that Zambia is undertaking in collaboration with the agency:

- (a) **In the area of radiation and nuclear safety**, considerable progress has been made in the establishment of an independent regulatory body, capacity building, and upgrading technical capabilities of the radiation protection authority in order to comply with the international safety standards;
- (b) **In the area of health service delivery**, Zambia is expanding and strengthening the application of nuclear technology in diagnosis and therapy for non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and neurological diseases and expansion of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services; and

- (c) **In food safety and security** – capacity building and monitoring of hazardous substances in food products is being enhanced. These interventions will minimize the risks posed by contaminants and assure the quality of agricultural exports.

Madam President,

In order to comply with the 19 infrastructure elements prescribed by the IAEA, Zambia has formally engaged the agency to assess the status of our nuclear infrastructure. In this regard, i wish to report, madam president, that the first integrated nuclear infrastructure review mission was undertaken by the agency from 3rd to 7th September, 2018 in Lusaka, Zambia.

Madam President,

Zambia appreciates the technical assistance received from the agency through the technical cooperation programme. In order to supplement IAEA assistance, Zambia has designed a co-financing mechanism to provide local counterpart funding to technical cooperation projects.

I wish to take this opportunity to inform you that Zambia has also entered into bilateral co-operation arrangements with ROSATOM of the Russian Federation and other partners to ensure successful implementation of the Zambia's nuclear programme.

Madam President,

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that Zambia values the support which the agency consistently continues to offer in the various areas of our technical cooperation. Zambia wishes to reaffirm her commitment to honour her international obligations in the peaceful, safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology.

I thank you.