

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H. E. AMBASSADOR T. MUSHAYAVANHU, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE: 62nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY GENERAL CONFERENCE: VIENNA, AUSTRIA: SEPTEMBER 2018

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Acting Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me, at the outset, congratulate you Madam President, on your election to steer the work of the 62nd Session of the IAEA General Conference. I wish to pledge the full support and co-operation of my delegation. We are confident that your already demonstrated efficient stewardship of the Conference will be crowned with much success.

We would also like to thank the IAEA Secretariat under the able leadership of Dr Yukiya Amano for their efficiency and effectiveness. We wish Dr Amano a speedy recovery.

Madam President,
For Zimbabwe, our presence and participation at this General Conference provides an opportunity to interface with the Agency at both technical and policy levels, and take our bilateral co-operation to a higher level. It is in this context that my delegation is engaging the experts here to take stock

of the implementation of projects under the Third Country Programme that I had occasion to sign a year ago.

While we take primary responsibility for our own overall development as a country, accelerated nuclear technology related development has only been possible with the active assistance and support from the IAEA. The Agency's invaluable support to the government's own efforts has continued to make tangible and significant contributions, in the early detection and better management of cancers; in ensuring food security through fighting the foot-and-mouth disease and tsetse-fly infestation; in crop breeding and the artificial insemination programme for our cattle; as well as in the application of isotope hydrology techniques, among other areas.

Allow me to touch briefly on a few of the success stories of our co-operation with the IAEA. For instance, cancer has emerged as a leading killer in Zimbabwe. In its efforts to address this scourge, the government has found a willing, helpful and indeed reliable partner in the Agency. As I speak here today, Zimbabwe's major referral hospitals are equipped and manned by specialized personnel trained in nuclear medicine, with the support of the IAEA.

Madam President,

Zimbabwe is a developing country with an agro-based economy. It is cattle country, with cattle playing a critical economic, and indeed social, role in our lives at both household and commercial levels. To this end, the IAEA is supporting our Artificial Insemination Programme aimed at re-stocking

the national cattle herd, as well as helping livestock disease control and increased livestock productivity.

With regards to crop mutation breeding, I am happy to share our success story with the development of a drought tolerant cowpea variety, which was registered in November last year, thanks to the technical support by the Agency, and the financial assistance which was extended to Zimbabwe's Crop Breeding Institute. I am advised that my country's success story on cowpea has been showcased in this month's edition of the IAEA Bulletin. It is indeed a source of immense pride for my delegation.

Further to the above, our collaboration with the Agency has also posted some good outcomes in the strengthening of the regulatory infrastructure and radiation safety, with the latter attaining the "green" status. In this regard, the Government of Zimbabwe looks forward to receiving the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan Review Mission later this year. On a related front, following the last Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission in 2014, we are also looking forward to the IRRS follow-up Mission next year, as we continue to work closely with the Agency.

Madam President,

As we celebrate and appreciate the application of "atoms for peace and development", international peace and security remain under threat from nuclear weapons. It is important to remind ourselves that Article VI (6) of the NPT obligates Member States to undertake negotiations in good faith. Unfortunately, those with nuclear weapons among us have not only failed

to demonstrate good faith, but they have taken measures to modernize their arsenals.

Madam President,

Disarmament, non-proliferation and access to nuclear technology are mutually-reinforcing pillars of the NPT edifice, and we believe that non-proliferation cannot be sustained forever into the future without commensurate progress in nuclear disarmament.

Finally, I wish to conclude by stating that a lot of positive developments have taken place in my country over the last ten months since the advent of a new political dispensation. Indeed, conditions have been created for enhanced engagement with the Agency and the rest of the international community.

Madam President,

I Thank You.