



REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

SPEECH OF THE ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, 28-30 NOVEMBER 2018, VIENNA-AUSTRIA, DELIVERED BY THE H.E. ANTÓNIO FERNANDES RODRIGUES BELSA DA COSTA, SECRETARY OF STATE OF ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased to attend this first IAEA Ministerial Conference to address you on current benefits of Nuclear Science and Technology in my country, as a member of this organisation since 1999.

Nuclear science and technology has numerous peaceful applications and has made important contributions to help Angola to achieve its development goals to reduce poverty and hunger as well as to treat threatening diseases, among them sleeping sickness and cancer.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sleeping sickness, a vector-borne parasitic disease spread by tsetse flies, is affecting Angola, threatening the population of some provinces in the country. This disease in Angola has hit provinces, which have fertile soils for development of agriculture and livestock, and some rich provinces in mineral resources such as oil and diamond bearing.

The nuclear science and technology through the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) is another approach for suppression and eradication of tsetse populations and is helping, in the long-term, to reduce the use of pesticides. Therefore, the IAEA support is still needed in building capacity for using SIT as part of our control programme of tsetse flies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In developing countries food and water are in some cases responsible for many causes of illness. Thus, with support of the IAEA, the Government of Angola is upgrading its Laboratory Services for Control of Food Quality. Nuclear derived molecular techniques are used for bacterial pathogens identification, including for zoonotic diseases.

Agricultural production in Angola is predominantly a family-labour activity for millions of smallholder self-subsistence farmers, planting an average of 1.4 ha per family on two or more parcels of land, which is not enough for the whole country. In order to bring significant improvement to this sector, the Government plans to:

- a) boost the production of basic food in order to reduce poverty and hunger, and secure enough food for the population, and
- b) increase production and multiplication of improved seeds;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, the Province of Cunene and surrounding areas, characterized by semi-arid climate with mean precipitation values in the order of 600-800 mm/year, are supplied exclusively by surface water from the Cunene River. This geographical situation has been an obstacle for the development of Province of Cunene and is greatly influenced by the frequency of rainfall, and longer dry seasons reduce agricultural and livestock production, the main economic activity of the region, causing huge losses. Groundwater resources are not well known and need to be updated in terms of reserve quantities, as an alternative response to the city's water supply and to support the development of the farming industry.

The nuclear science and technology throughout isotopic techniques is being utilised to extend studies of the groundwater system in the Province of Cunene with the aim of helping in:

- a) identifying the origin of groundwater and recharge areas;
- b) determining the residence time of groundwater; and
- c) mapping groundwater resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The fluctuation of the oil price in the international market has served as a strong reason for strengthening the process of diversification of the Angolan economy. For this purpose, the Angolan Government has made efforts to properly explore other areas apart from oil to increase its state revenues. However, due to the need to

safeguard the environment for future generations, and the increasing concern on radioactive pollution due to radioactive substances from oil and mining activities, the Government of Angola, under the technical cooperation with the IAEA, decided to establish a National Laboratory for Analysis of Environmental Radioactivity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear science and technology play a major role in controlling the spread of cancer, which pervasiveness continues to increase. The population of Angola is about 28 million, and according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) more than 60% of the 11.000 new cancer cases that occur in Angola annually require radiotherapy treatment.

With support of the IAEA, Angola has devised a comprehensive cancer control programme, established radiation oncology facilities and has been offering training for specialised health professionals.

Malnutrition is also one of the major causes of the high level of child morbidity and mortality. The nutritional status of Angolans is also a deep concern, with 30 out of every 100 children suffering from chronic malnutrition and / or severe malnutrition, a situation that worsens in rural areas. With the assistance of the IAEA through the National Project ANG6006 “*Developing National Capacity for Improving Nutrition for Human Health*”, the Government of Angola intends to better monitor and assess the vitamin A status of children aged under 5, susceptible to infections.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, the Government of the Republic of Angola avails itself of the opportunity to present once again the Agency and its Director General its deep appreciation for the support provided and renews the hope that this event will produce relevant results leading to a better performance of this organisation, which will benefit all IAEA member-states.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!