



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

COUNTRY STATEMENT

BY

THE HEAD OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION,

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MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

DURING

THE 63RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE,

SEPTEMBER 16TH – 20TH, 2019

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, VIENNA AUSTRIA

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to extend our sincere condolences to the family, friends, and IAEA Secretariat on the passing on of the former Director General, the late Yukiya Amano. The late is remembered for his pivotal role in the restoration of radiotherapy services in Uganda in 2016, and his engagements with His Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda on enhancing Agency's Technical cooperation. We shall deeply miss him, but his legacy will always stay with us.
2. In the same vain, I extend our condolences and sympathy to colleagues who lost the loved ones, may the Almighty God comfort you in this trying moment.

Madam President,

3. On behalf of the Government of Uganda and my delegation, I join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Presidency of the 63rd Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. My delegation assures you and the members of your bureau support and cooperation in discharging your duty.
4. I seize the opportunity to congratulate and welcome Mr. Cornel Feruta upon his appointment as the Acting Director General of the Agency, and wish him and the Secretariat success in executing the Agency's core mandate of ***“seeking to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.”***

Madam President,

5. Global cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology over the years has provided solutions to a number of challenges facing humanity in the areas of: - human health, agricultural productivity, water resource management, environmental restoration and energy. In this regard, Uganda appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts in facilitating this cooperation and supporting Member States to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy. These efforts are a good step towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam President,

6. To reaffirm Uganda's strong commitment to the Agency's technical cooperation programme, we pledge to continue honouring our financial obligations in a timely manner. In addition, Uganda will sign the Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2019-2023 at the margins of this conference. This mutual agreement on technical cooperation with the Agency will focus on building capacity in the areas of:- Food and Agriculture, Human Health, Water, Energy, Industry, Research, Nuclear Security and Radiation Protection.
7. The implementation of the previous CPF registered many achievements, most notably the restoration of the radiotherapy services in 2017, enhancing the radiation safety regime, enhancing national capacity for monitoring food contaminants and support for pre-feasibility studies for nuclear infrastructure development.

8. Non communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to be a global challenge and cancer in particular is one of the common NCD in Uganda. To address this challenge, Uganda is implementing a Comprehensive National Cancer Control Programme which emphasizes prevention of cancers through early detection so that cases can be cured and palliative care for patients with advanced diseases. Nuclear applications such as radiotherapy and nuclear medicine are contributing towards this end by complementing conventional methods.
9. Uganda applauds the Agency for the continued fight against Cancer and indeed this year's scientific forum titled "**A Decade of Action on Cancer Control and the Way Forward**" is timely to take stock of the key achievements in the area. Uganda is one of the countries that has greatly benefited from this assistance in terms of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services
10. The Agency, through the Regional Cooperative Framework for Africa (AFRA) provided assistance to Uganda in the area of human resource training and supported the establishment of an interim storage facility for dis-used low activity radiation sources. In addition, national capacity has been built on conditioning low activity radioactive sources.
11. To support nuclear and radiation safety, the Agency has played an important role in enhancing Uganda's nuclear security capability. Critical personnel and first responders have been trained on how to manage and respond to nuclear security incidences.

Madam President,

12. My country continues to assess all the available energy resources to ensure sustainable exploitation of these resources. Towards this end, government with Agency technical support conducted pre-feasibility studies for the nuclear power programme which indicated that nuclear energy will have a role to play in the electricity generation mix. In this regard government is working towards creating an enabling environment for nuclear power development in Uganda which includes among others the emplacement of a nuclear energy policy and the comprehensive nuclear legislation.
13. My country applauds the Agency for the assistance towards nuclear infrastructure development. To assess progress on key milestones for nuclear infrastructure development, my country has invited the Agency to conduct an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission next year 2020.

Madam President,

14. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Uganda will continue to support the Agency activities in promoting the international cooperation in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and for the application of the Safeguards. Towards this end, I express our confidence in the work of the Agency Secretariat and its Acting Director General.

I thank you.