



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**AT THE  
THE 63<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE,  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**DELIVERED BY  
DR. ROLAND MSISKA,**

**DIRECTOR GENERAL  
ZAMBIA ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**16<sup>TH</sup> TO 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AND ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, ALLOW ME TO CONVEY OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE AMANO FAMILY AND TO THE IAEA COMMUNITY ON THE PASSING AWAY OF THE LATE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IAEA, MR. YUKIYA AMANO. WE RECALL WITH DEEP APPRECIATION MR. YUKIYA AMANO'S VISIT TO ZAMBIA IN 2018. HIS ADVICE INSPIRED US TO ACCELERATE OUR NUCLEAR ENERGY ASPIRATIONS TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

I WISH TO ALSO CONVEY ZAMBIA'S CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ENERGY AND MINING

**MADAM PRESIDENT**

I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND PLEDGE TO SUPPORT YOUR PRESIDENCY.

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES AIMED AT DEVELOPING HUMAN RESOURCE CAPACITY IN AREAS SUCH AS NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDS.

IN ADDITION, WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO ADHERE TO THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ADOPTED UNDER THE IAEA FRAMEWORK IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

IN THIS REGARD, ZAMBIA HAS IDENTIFIED KEY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS WHICH REQUIRE RATIFICATION AND THE PROCESSES OF RATIFICATION IS ON-GOING.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT SINCE THE LAST GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 2018, ZAMBIA HAS SUBMITTED ITS COMMITMENT LETTER TO THE AGENCY ACCEPTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF RADIOACTIVE SOURCES.

IN ADDITION, SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING THE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR APPROVAL BY CABINET AS PART OF THE NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR RATIFICATION.

**MADAM PRESIDENT**

IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA TO SUBMIT ALL ITS INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF KEY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN THE YEAR 2020.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO REPORT THAT IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL EFFECTS OF IONISING RADIATION, ZAMBIA HAS ADVANCED IN THE ENACTMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY TO THE NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN ITS REGULATORY INDEPENDENCE.

FURTHER THE BILL PROVIDES FOR THE CREATION OF AN APEX COORDINATING AGENCY (ZAMATOM) WHICH WILL ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IN ZAMBIA WHICH MEETS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SAFETY, SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDS.

**MADAM PRESIDENT**

I WISH TO REPORT THAT THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA PLANS TO COMMISSION THE CENTRE FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS AND TO COMMISSION THE FIRST TWO (2) UNITS OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT BY THE YEAR 2040.

**MADAM PRESIDENT**

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CREATING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN NEW COMER COUNTRIES AND THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE FIELD MUCH LONGER, I AM GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT THE ZAMBIAN REGULATOR AND ITS RUSSIAN COUNTERPART ARE SCHEDULED TO SIGN AN INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT ALONGSIDE THIS 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE.

IN ADDITION, ZAMBIA IS IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING A CHAPTER OF WOMEN IN NUCLEAR INSPIRED BY THE IAEA'S WOMEN IN NUCLEAR GLOBAL.

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

ALLOW ME TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES BEING UNDERTAKEN IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AGENCY:

IN THE AREA OF HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY, ZAMBIA AIMS AT ENSURING THAT ALL THE TEN (10) PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS HAVE RADIOTHERAPY CENTRES. CURRENTLY, ONE RADIOTHERAPY CENTRE HAS BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE 2006, AND FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ESTABLISHING TWO PROVINCIAL RADIOTHERAPY CENTRES

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT A DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES NEEDS IN THE AREA OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THIS REGARD WE CALL ON THE CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE IAEA

**MADAM PRESIDENT**

IN FOOD SAFETY AND SECURITY – WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AGENCY, MONITORING OF MYCOTOXINS, VETERINARY DRUGS RESIDUES, AND PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD PRODUCTS IS ONGOING. CURRENTLY ONLY THREE (3) PROVINCES ARE COVERED OUT OF THE TEN (10). THE TARGET IS TO HAVE A SUB-LABORATORY IN EACH OF THE SEVEN (7) REMAINING PROVINCES.

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

LAST YEAR WE REPORTED THAT WE HAD ENTERED INTO BILATERAL CO-OPERATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH ROSATOM OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF ZAMBIA’S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME. WITHIN THIS COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN THE OUTPUTS SO FAR:

1. A 200 YEARS ROAD MAP FOR THE ENTIRE CYCLE OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DEVELOPED;

2. 110 STUDENTS STUDYING NUCLEAR SCIENCE RELATED SUBJECTS IN RUSSIA;
3. NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED WHICH HAS BECOME THE BASIS FOR CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS;
4. AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT BRIEF AND A PRELIMINARY SITE SURVEY HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRE FOR NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

ZAMBIA HAS ALSO DESIGNED A CO-FINANCING MECHANISM TO PROVIDE LOCAL COUNTERPART FUNDING TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS. GOING FORWARD, THE APEX COORDINATING AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE APPROACHING IAEA FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING AND HARMONIZING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

I WISH TO STATE THAT ZAMBIA IS OPEN TO DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER PARTNERS FOR ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN OUR BID TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IN ZAMBIA.

**IN CONCLUSION MADAM PRESIDENT,**

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ZAMBIA'S APPRECIATION FOR THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED FROM THE AGENCY THROUGH THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM AND WISH TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO HONOUR ALL INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN THE PEACEFUL, SAFE AND SECURE USE OF NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

**I THANK YOU.**