

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**Statement  
Delivered by**

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**and Head of delegation to the  
International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening  
Efforts**

**10 to 14 February 2020, Vienna, Austria**

Distinguished Presidents

Director General

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Presidents,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of this Conférence. My delegation believes this will be a productive conference and pledges our commitment and support.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the Ambassadors of Romania and Panama, the Co-Chairs of the preparatory process for the Ministerial declaration we adopted yesterday.

Presidents,

Past events convincingly indicated that nuclear security has become a significant challenge worldwide and hence calls for focused sustaining intervention and joint concerted efforts. It is our hope that ICONS 2020 builds on the commitments made in 2013 and 2016, allows us to appreciate the gains made since, while investing on bridging the gaps by elaborating on areas that need focused attention in the nuclear security regime.

Nuclear security is prominent as the usage of nuclear and radiological materials diversify. At times it becomes destructive if wrongly used, thus we should all share the responsibility of ensuring that nuclear and radiological material is safe and secure. We shall collectively and jointly exert all efforts to strengthen our nuclear security regimes and maintain our readiness to promptly and effectively respond to emerging threats, as we embark upon enhancing our nuclear security activities.

In this regard, we acknowledge the fundamental role played by the IAEA in strengthening the global nuclear security architecture and coordinating international efforts as new challenges and opportunities are emerging. We look upon the

Agency to continue populating the international binding instruments and promote their universalization, while supporting Member States in their bid to strengthen nuclear security regimes.

In that connection, we encourage the Agency to continue rendering support and assistance, upon request, to developing countries in strengthening their national capacities to effectively realize their international commitments. Similarly, Regional and International Cooperation and mutual support among countries remain a key strategy for the strengthening of national infrastructure for nuclear security.

### Presidents

Namibia, being one of the large producers of source materials, is compelled to abide by all legal binding international instruments, and thus has domesticated them into our national legislative and regulatory frameworks. As an expanded commitment, we implement the IAEA regulations on the safe transport of the radioactive materials as part of the national regulatory tools.

Furthermore, in an effort to strengthen nuclear safety and security control measures, Namibia has been developing and implementing an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) for the past 2 decades, which articulates the national nuclear security priorities on all nuclear related materials and facilities.

In this regard, Government has mobilised resources needed to implement the actions identified in the plan, while engaging with the IAEA for technical support and assistance enhancing sustainable nuclear security regime.

### Mr. President

We are cognisant that the responsibility for securing nuclear and radioactive material rests with the individual states, however it must be noted that a nuclear security incident or accident have potential negative impacts and far reaching consequences. In this regard, we underscore the importance of undertaking global shared responsibilities in ensuring that nuclear security infrastructures and architecture are secured and robust regulatory frameworks are in place.

Presidents,

In conclusion, my delegation emphasises the importance of the applications of nuclear science and technology for development and peaceful uses in light of achieving the sustainable development goals. Thus, nuclear safety and security considerations should not hamper the advancement of nuclear science technology and technology transfer to embarking states particularly, developing countries.

Thank you, Presidents