



Republic of Botswana

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

HONOURABLE THULAGANO M. SEGOKGO

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

TO THE 66TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE IN
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

26-30, September 2022

- President
- Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr Rafael Grossi
- Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Heads of Missions and International Organizations
- Distinguished Delegates

1. It is an honour and great pleasure for me to address the 66th regular session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference on behalf of the Republic of Botswana.

2. President, I would like to join other speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 66th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference. With your esteemed guidance and leadership, we are confident that the agenda of this Conference will be successfully achieved. My delegation and I assures you of our full support.

3. Let me also commend the Director General, Mr Rafael Grossi and his team for their resolute commitment to the delivery of the Agency's mandate in spite of the several challenges

currently bedevilling the world. The achievements attained by the Agency over the last year, particularly in the areas of Technical Cooperation, Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards, are indeed testimony of a visionary leadership.

4. President, the Republic of Botswana has over the years leveraged on the technical cooperation programme to deliver some of our initiatives in the areas of agriculture, human health and nutrition, through integration of nuclear techniques in national development programmes. This has yielded success, particularly in the agricultural sector in the control of transboundary animal diseases, pest control, and food safety. I am happy to state that my country is now on track, with regards to putting into operation the radiotherapy centre at a public hospital in pursuit of our national goal of ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all citizens. It is through the Agency's unwavering support that we have progressed thus far. We shall continue to enlist the Agency's assistance in expert services and human capacity building for the successful running of the radiotherapy facility. This year's Scientific forum on 'Rays of Hope: Cancer care for all' is very

relevant for my country, as it resonates well with our national aspiration of providing cancer care for all of our citizens.

5. President, my country would like to continue to derive the good benefits of the technical cooperation. Hence, we have just finalized the development of the fourth Country Programme Framework for the years 2023-2028, which we will sign before the end of the year. Food safety, agriculture, human health and nutrition, radiation safety, water resources management, energy planning, and human resources development in nuclear science and technology, continue to be a priority for my country. All these are in line with our national transformational agenda and aspiration of becoming a high-income economy by 2036. The uptake of the AFRA programme and other initiatives, such as the Marie Curie fellowship and the AFRA PhD sandwich programme, will also make a significant contribution to our efforts of enhancing human capital development in nuclear technologies.

6. President, I would like to reiterate my country's commitment towards global nuclear security. We continue to abide and honour our obligations under the signed conventions and

agreements, and advocate for peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Our plans of enhancing national measures on nuclear security, with a long-term view of establishing a self-sustaining nuclear security regime, are progressing well. In this regard, we will be reviewing our Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan in November 2022 to further strengthen our national nuclear security measures and architecture. My country maintains a robust regulatory infrastructure for nuclear safety and security, and we will continue to strengthen it to respond to emerging technological uses.

7. My country is cognizant of the fact that all member states have obligations to ensure effective implementation of the Agency's mandate and therefore shall continue to honour its financial obligations to the Agency.

8. President, in conclusion, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Agency for the continued support and firm commitment towards ensuring that Botswana reaps the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The contribution of nuclear technology to health and agriculture is

very evident in our everyday lives. Let me reiterate Botswana's assurance in working with the Agency to ensure that nuclear technology is utilized in a safe and sustainable manner.

Thank you.