

Republic of Djibouti

Unity-Equality-Peace

66th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY

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Statement of H.E. YACIN HOUSSEIN DOUALE

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the
IAEA

Excellency Mr◊ Alessandro Corteze President of the 66th General Conference of the IAEA

Excellencies heads of delegations of members states of the IAEA

Excellency Mr Director General of the IAEA,

Permanent Representatives to the Agency,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to address the 66th General Conference of the IAEA as the permanent representative of my country. Allow me first of all, Mr. President, to express on behalf of my country to you and to the rest of the chairing committee that has been elected on Monday, my sincere congratulations and best wishes of success in your presidency. I would like to assure you of my support and the cooperation of my country for the success of the work of this Assembly. I also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the President of the 65th General Conference, H.E. Mr. Marafi, former Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait.

Likewise, I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Director General and the entire staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency for their invaluable contribution to the preservation of peace and nuclear security at a time of serious tension. Djibouti also very much welcomes the various initiatives launched by the IAEA under the leadership of H.E. Raphael Mariano Grossi, in particular the "Rays of Hope", "Nutec Plastics" and "Zodiac" initiatives, and would like to express its willingness to participate in these initiatives, especially in the expansion of radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer in African countries. Unfortunately, my country lacks a radiation therapy center and has spent a lot of

money on medical evacuation of cancer patients abroad, so I welcome cooperation with the IAEA and other countries that are willing to do so.

Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

Although Djibouti has been a member of the IAEA for only a few years, it attaches great importance to the civilian use of nuclear energy and has fulfilled its obligations under the various agreements and protocols related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty: The government of Djibouti greatly appreciates the support that Djibouti has received from the organization since it joined the IAEA in 2015.

Since then, my government has made great efforts and great progress in establishing the appropriate legal framework and regulatory infrastructure. Although it is an ongoing process, the Republic of Djibouti is committed to fulfilling its obligations to the IAEA and promoting peaceful nuclear energy-based technology, which is an important component for the country's development, especially in the basic socioeconomic areas.

Last year, with technical support from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), we further developed the national legal framework for nuclear technology with the adoption of two laws regulating the safe handling of radiological and nuclear technologies. In addition, the National Authority for Nuclear, Radiological, Chemical and Biological Safety and Security was established.

It was important to establish a comprehensive regulatory authority and to develop and implement a national control system for radiation sources and biological and chemical agents. Because of limited human resources in the area of nuclear technology, the agency will be responsible for recruiting its own personnel with expertise in this area, but also for training officials in various public organizations that are or may be in contact with radiation sources, with support from the IAEA and partner countries. Academic institutions at universities or research centers will also play a critical role in attracting nuclear science students and making

their positive contribution to the benefit of a variety of sectors. Just last week, the agency held a workshop in Djibouti with the participation of IAEA experts to raise awareness among the various stakeholders in the public and private sectors about safety and the implementation of security measures in all activities and facilities with sources of ionizing radiation in the territory of the Republic of Djibouti.

Mr President,

My country views capacity building as an essential element of nuclear science and technology that will pave the way to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations once these new technologies are mastered.

In the framework of technical cooperation with the IAEA, Djibouti is working on the implementation of a number of projects. Of these, 5 are new projects approved at the last General Conference of the States Parties:

- The establishment of a national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety and monitoring programs for occupational radiation exposure;
- The support for better use of nuclear science and technology, with the goal of promoting the effective use of nuclear applications and techniques within the context of national objectives;
- The improvement and strengthening of the analytical capacity of the National Chemistry Laboratory;
- The use of isotopic and hydrometeorological tools to understand the impacts of climate change on groundwater;

- The support for the development of a national strategy for energy planning.

The Republic of Djibouti recognizes the Agency's key role in disseminating skills and knowledge in this important area and calls for an increase in funding allocated to the technical cooperation program.

At the international level, Djibouti is very concerned about the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction throughout the world and especially in the Middle East. Djibouti therefore calls on all countries and regions to move forward towards a world free of nuclear weapons and will continue to support the various resolutions and in particular the resolution presented by the Egyptian delegation for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, Djibouti reaffirms its firm commitment to the principles of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and expresses its support for the activities of the IAEA in its indispensable role in ensuring nuclear security and compliance with non-proliferation obligations.

Thank for your kind attention