



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**AT THE  
THE 66<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**26<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY**

**HONOURABLE FELIX C. MUTATI  
MINISTER OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE**

**ZAMBIA**

**MR. PRESIDENT**

ON BEHALF OF THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT, IT IS MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO ADDRESS THIS CONFERENCE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION WISHES TO JOIN THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS IN CONGRATULATING YOU ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 2022 IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE.

AS A DELEGATION, WE ARE VERY CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH YOUR LEADERSHIP, THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS YEAR'S GENERAL CONFERENCE WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

ZAMBIA JOINS OTHER MEMBER STATES IN COMMENDING THE AGENCY FOR ITS TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING AND STRENGTHENING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. SINCE BECOMING A MEMBER STATE OF THE AGENCY IN 1969, THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN ZAMBIA HAS CONTINUED TO BE AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT IN OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES.

THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT IS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT, WITH GREAT ASSISTANCE FROM THE AGENCY, ZAMBIA HAS REGISTERED REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF IMPROVED RADIOTHERAPY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE SERVICES; INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND STRENGTHENED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

IT IS NOW MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS MADE:

IN OUR EFFORTS TO FURTHER PROMOTE AND EXPAND NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR POLICY OF 2020. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE NUCLEAR POLICY IS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR ZAMBIA TO USE NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN VARIOUS SECTORS, SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, MINING, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT.

THE NUCLEAR POLICY ALSO SEEKS TO REPEAL THE EXISTING IONIZING RADIATION PROTECTION LAW AND ENACT A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR LAW.

FURTHER, ZAMBIA RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO ADHERE TO THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ADOPTED UNDER THE AGENCY FRAMEWORK FOR A SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

NUCLEAR MEDICINE FACILITIES IN ZAMBIA HAVE BEEN OPERATIONAL SINCE THE EARLY 1980's AT THE UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL. THE COUNTRY IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING AND INSTALLING MODERN NUCLEAR MEDICINE FACILITIES NATIONWIDE IN ORDER TO DEAL WITH AN INCREASE IN THE DEMAND AND REQUIREMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICAL SERVICES.

**MR. PRESIDENT**

THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO CONTROL CANCER AND REDUCE PREMATURE MORTALITY, USING THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE APPROACH TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE. ZAMBIA HAS DEVELOPED ITS SECOND NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 – 2026, WHICH WILL BE THE BASIS FOR NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE BURDEN OF CANCER OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

**MR. PRESIDENT**

ZAMBIA HAS A COMPREHENSIVE CANCER TREATMENT CENTRE OPENED IN 2006 TO PROVIDE RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES. THE CENTRE HAS BEEN PROVIDING SERVICES NOT ONLY TO ZAMBIANS, BUT ALSO THOSE FROM THE SUB SAHARAN REGION. WITH THIS CENTRE, ZAMBIA HAS BECOME A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR CANCER DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND TRAINING. IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THIS CAPACITY, THE COUNTRY HAS PRIORITIZED THE REPLACEMENT OF THE RADIOTHERAPY EQUIPMENT.

THE ASSISTANCE WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE FROM THE IAEA THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED. ZAMBIA REQUESTED, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AGENCY, TO BE CONSIDERED IN TRACK TWO OF THE RAYS OF HOPE PROJECT. FOLLOWING THIS, THE BANKABLE DOCUMENT FOR THE REPLACEMENT AND REFURBISHMENT OF RADIOTHERAPY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT AT THE CANCER DISEASES HOSPITAL HAS BEEN COMPLETED WITH THE AGENCY. THE COUNTRY NOW EXPECTS TO MOVE WITH THE AGENCY IN SOURCING OF THE FUNDS REQUIRED.

**MR. PRESIDENT**

ZAMBIA PLANS TO INVEST IN HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND PERSONNEL, IN ORDER TO ASSURE A HEALTHY POPULATION AND GUARANTEE THE COUNTRY'S ATTAINMENT OF A MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRY STATUS BY 2030.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

ZAMBIA IS PRIORITISING FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL. WE ARE WORKING TO BUILD ITS CAPACITY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH THE AGENCY. ZAMBIA IS ESTABLISHING A MULTI IRRADIATION CENTRE WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR VALUE ADDITION IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

ZAMBIA RECOGNIZES THAT RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS TRANSCENDS BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND THAT COLLABORATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES IS KEY IN ACHIEVING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS. IN THIS REGARD, THE REGULATORY BODY HAS SIGNED A NUMBER OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REGULATORY BODIES OF SOME NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. THROUGH THESE MOU'S ZAMBIA AIMS TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS DURING TRANSPORT.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

THROUGH TECHNICAL COOPERATION SUPPORT FROM THE AGENCY, ZAMBIA CONTINUES TO TRAIN PERSONNEL IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF RADIATION MEDICINE.



**MR. PRESIDENT,**

ZAMBIA DEVELOPED AND SIGNED A NEW COUNTRY PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK (CPF), WHICH COVERS THE PERIOD 2022 TO 2027.

I WOULD, THEREFORE, LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE AGENCY FOR ITS VALUABLE SUPPORT DURING THE FORMULATION OF THE CPF.

FURTHER, ZAMBIA HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT OF THE AFRA PROGRAMME AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ACCEDING TO THE CURRENT 6<sup>TH</sup> TERM OF AFRA.

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO PLEDGE ZAMBIA'S CONTINUED CONTRIBUTION TO THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND THE AFRA FUNDS.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION