



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

COUNTRY STATEMENT

**AT THE
67TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

25TH TO 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

ZAMBIA

Madam President,

Before I begin my remarks, my delegation wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the Kingdom of Morocco and the State of Libya following the recent tragedies experienced in the two countries.

Madam President,

On behalf of the People of the Republic of Zambia, the Government of the Republic of Zambia led by his Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, and on behalf of the Zambian delegation here present, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the 67th IAEA General Conference.

Madam President,

I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of the 67th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference and pledge our full support during your Presidency. I would also like to congratulate The Gambia and Cape Verde on becoming new members of the IAEA since our last General Conference.

In the same vein, I would like to congratulate Mr. Rafael Grossi on his re-election as the Director General of the Agency for a second term.

Madam President,

We also wish to thank the Director General for his address to this General Conference and take note of the successes the Agency achieved in 2022 under his leadership, in its technical cooperation programme and other areas of work covering health and nutrition, food and agriculture, and nuclear safety.

Madam President,

Zambia is particularly happy to note that the Agency is giving priority to its programme of the Rays of Hope as the prevalence cancer in most countries, including Zambia, is increasing. Zambia is elated by the huge success of the Rays of Hope initiative, which is improving the cancer management capacity in countries where it has already been rolled out and, we remain committed to working closely with the Secretariat to ensure its implementation in Zambia.

Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the Atoms4Food initiative whose aim is to support Member States in increasing food production, food safety, agricultural planning and nutrition programming, using nuclear and isotopic techniques. Zambia plans to engage with the Secretariat on this, to explore synergies with our existing national programmes on food security and public health.

Madam President,

The unpredictable weather patterns continue to present a challenge for most countries, including Zambia, that are heavily dependent on hydropower for energy needs. In this regard, the IAEA's work in promoting the safe use of nuclear technology for energy efficiency and climate resilience in agricultural food production is welcome. The Zambian Government is looking to learn best practices.

Madam President,

My country appreciates the various capacity building support programmes organized by the Agency for which Zambia has been a beneficiary over the years. Participation in these training programmes and those in many other fields is helping to develop the required competences in nuclear science, technology and its various applications. With enough capacities now already built across nationals of the various Member States, we hope that this will also translate into a fairer geographical representation of staff in the Secretariat.

Madam President,

Zambia has been a beneficiary of technical cooperation programmes the Agency, which has been working very closely with several government departments to support our national efforts in mainstreaming nuclear science and technology in national development planning. This is meant to improve the health, safety and the wellbeing of Zambians.

Madam President

On the policy side, in addition to prioritizing universal health coverage in its national development plans, Zambia has developed a five-year strategic plan, which aims to strengthen Zambia's capacity in cutting-edge nuclear science and technology during the intervening period. Zambia is also rolling out training programmes at the national level to increase capacity in fields such as radiation therapy technology, clinical and radiation oncology, and clinical medical physics, among others.

Madam President,

Allow me to highlight some of the notable areas where Zambia has had successful collaboration with the Agency.

Madam President,

In the area of health service delivery, Zambia has collaborated with the Agency in cancer treatment. Currently, Zambia is constructing a second radiotherapy center, which is expected to be operational by the 4th quarter of 2024. Zambia is also working with various partners to mobilize resources to replace old equipment at the Cancer Diseases Hospital.

Madam President,

In the area of radiation protection, with support from the Agency, the Zambian Radiation Protection Authority has strengthened the implementation of its regulatory functions including decentralising some functions.

Further, with support from the Agency and the World Bank, Zambia has built capacity for radioactivity laboratory analysis.

The Zambian Government has also increased funding to the Radiation Protection Authority to enhance its institutional capacity and regulatory mandate as well as to ensure that Zambia continues to mainstream all relevant international Conventions and Treaties at the national and sub-regional level.

As I conclude, **Madam President**, I would like to express Zambia's appreciation for the technical support we continue to receive from the agency. I wish to reaffirm Zambia's commitment in the peaceful, safe and secure use of nuclear science and technology.

I thank you.