



Republic of Angola

**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE
JOÃO BAPTISTA BORGES,
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND WATER, DELIVERED AT THE
59th REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE
VIENNA-AUSTRIA, 14-18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Mr. President of the 59th Regular Session of the General
Conference, Ambassador Filippo Formica,**

Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and privilege to address the 59th Regular Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on behalf of the government of the Republic of Angola.

Mr. President,

I will begin by offering my heartfelt congratulations for your election to preside the 59th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. You, Mr. President, have our unwavering support and cooperation and I am certain that under your leadership this conference will be a resounding success.

I would like to offer my congratulations to H.E. Ambassador **Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez**, outgoing president of the 58th Session of the General Conference and the Secretariat of the Agency for the work carried out, since the last Regular Session of the General Conference.

I would also like to praise the Director General of the IAEA, Mr. Yukiya Amano, for his contribution and the skilful, dedicated, transparent and coherent way by which he has conducted the Agency's affairs.

I also take this opportunity to compliment **Antigua and Barbuda, Turkmenistan and Barbados** as new member states of IAEA.

Mr. President,

We have paid close attention to the speech delivered by the Director General, which we found very informative and embrace the programs and activities carried out by the IAEA since the last session of the General Conference.

Mr. President,

My country monitored the negotiations between the 5+1 Group and

Iran which culminated in the signing on July 14, 2015, in Vienna-Austria of an historic agreement, the “**Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ” JCPOA**), known as the “Vienna Agreement”, for a long-term solution to the Iranian nuclear dossier in the next ten (10) years.

We endorse the deal reached and are convinced that it will pave the way for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

On behalf of my country I would like to express my appreciation for the ongoing, valuable and essential contribution that the agency, by way of its Technical Corporation Department, has been making to the development and multifaceted bolstering of the use of nuclear technology.

The Government of Angola thanks the agency for the technical assistance it has been providing in the field of agriculture, veterinary science, and above all, therapeutic healthcare for cancer, which permits the cutting of costs on transporting patients overseas and reduces the number of deaths, and is therefore an essential form of assistance for minimising the deficiencies experienced by our country in these areas.

Mr. President,

Angola believes that the **Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy-PACT** is an important tool that enables member states to

introduce, expand and enhance their control capacities by integrating radiation medicine into **National Cancer Control Programs** on a global basis and by developing the capacities and infrastructure necessary for the safe treatment and diagnosis of cancer and applauds the Agency's participation in the 9th SCCA (Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer in Africa) Conference for African First Ladies held in July 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Angola is also appreciative of the activities carried out by the **Advisory Group on increasing access to Radiotherapy Technology in low and middle income countries –AgaRT** which aim to address the growing deficit in access to radiation therapy that persist in these countries and encourages the Agency to follow the recommendations issued by the Advisory Group, according to which the next cycle of activities in the period 2015-2019 should focus on increasing access to the technology and the provision of quality, sustainable radiotherapy services affordable to all.

My country considers urgent and important the transfer of the ownership and operation of the **Virtual University for Cancer Control -VUCCnet** to Africa and its reproduction in other regions, and encourages PACT to seek partnerships and mobilise resources to finance the technical cooperation ventures related to cancer.

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, once again, I would like to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the Agency relating to the “ReNuAL”

project, for the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories of Seibersdorf.

We applaud the Agency's ongoing endeavours in the field of nuclear technologies for development of priority areas of nuclear energy, human health, food production and agriculture, water resource management and environmental preservation, in addition to the cooperation and support the Secretariat provides to member states, including by way of technical cooperation projects to build capabilities and share experiences and expertise in the development of Sterile Insect Techniques (SIT) to eradicate or control malaria transmitting mosquitoes, as malaria is one of the leading causes of death in Angola.

In respect of the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, we support the cooperation between the Secretariat and the African Union, which has raised awareness about the need to eradicate Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis in Africa, by way of Sterile Insect Techniques, where Angola is also one of the endemic zones.

However, despite the endeavours undertaken to date, further measures are necessary to completely eradicate the Tsetse fly in a reasonable timeframe.

Angola is also facing geological problems such as soil erosion and

cyclical droughts in the country's desert regions, meaning it requires the Agency's technical assistance to **reduce soil erosion** (gully erosion), **research into aquifers** in desert regions and for the new **cancer treatment and diagnosis centres to be created by the government** in other regions of the country under the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy-PACT.

Angola is wholeheartedly committed to the Agency's ideals and objectives, which is why it has honoured its payment obligations as a member state for the Agency's Regular Budget and contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

Eight (8) African states that appear in the list of **Less Developed Countries - LDCs**, have each contributed in full their share to the Technical Cooperation Fund.

Angola accordingly encourages other member states to commit to the maintenance and bolstering of the agency's technical cooperation activities, paying their contributions to the Agency's Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund.

However, we suggest that in the event a member state loses their capacity to pay its contribution as a result of adverse situations or events, it will not forfeit their right to benefit from the Agency's technical cooperation projects.

My government congratulates the agency for its endeavours to reduce

the time necessary for staff recruitment. However, it is concerned by the minimal African representation in the Agency's staff, especially in senior positions.

To overcome this undesirable situation we urge the Secretariat to work in cooperation with developing countries to identify the qualified and skilled workforce from Africa and other regions. We call for the IAEA to reformulate its staffing policy in order to ensure greater representativity of Africa.

Mr. President,

We also applaud the endeavours and dedication of the undertaken by the (180) experts of the (42) member states and various regulatory agencies working tirelessly to mitigate the effects caused by the accident at the **Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant** and for them to provide us with the findings of the work carried out there so we can learn from their findings.

My country is endeavouring to ratify other legal instruments related to the use of nuclear energy as soon as possible, the **Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material-CPPNM**, the **Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage** and the **Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident**, in addition to the respective amendments thereto.

Mr. President,

Lastly, I would like to reiterate my country's complete disposal to

continue cooperating with the IAEA with a view to securing peace, development and well-being of all nations.

Thank You Very Much!