



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMB. PEDRO COMISSÁRIO
HEAD OF DELEGATION
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA

AT

THE 61ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

VIENNA, 18-22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Madam President,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Mozambican delegation, I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, for your brilliant election and for the mastery manner in which you have been steering the proceedings of the 61st Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA.

I have the honour to convey the deepest appreciation of the Government of Mozambique to the Director - General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Yukiya Amano, for the excellent work he has been performing at the helm of the organization. In this context, we consider his re-appointment well deserved. We wish him every success as he starts his new term of duty.

We commend the Director-General for his leadership and untiring efforts in transforming the Agency into an effective multilateral organization for the world's "*Atoms for Peace and Development*" vision and for its indispensable role at the service of humanity and socio-economic development worldwide, through peaceful use of science and nuclear technology.

Madam President,

This meeting is taking place almost 4 months following the holding of the *International Conference on Technical Cooperation Program: Sixty Years and Beyond – Contributing to Development*. The Conference was a testament to the IAEA resolve to innovate and adapt its activities to the new international development agenda, with focus on Climate Change and Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal nr. 7.

The importance of the Conference is self-evident and its outcome is self-explanatory. We can witness today the tremendous progresses made, over 60 years, in the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, with focus on human health, food and agriculture, water and environment and industrial applications.

We take good note of the Director-General's 2016 report. It is a true reflection of the outstanding activities undertaken by the IAEA. We commend the DG and his hard-working team. We welcome, in particular, the completion of the coordinated research projects on nuclear power, on nuclear fuel cycle and materials technology, on capacity building and nuclear knowledge for sustainable energy development; nuclear science; human health, water resources; radioisotope production and radiation technology; management of radioactive waste and nuclear security.

Madam President,

On July 7, 2017, the United Nations Conference mandated by the UN General Assembly to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons leading towards their total elimination adopted the text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This was a momentous achievement.

The adoption of this landmark legal instrument is an important step, in the context of the international disarmament agenda.

Indeed, once in force, the Treaty will contribute immensely to the fulfilment of the IAEA's mandate of promoting the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The Treaty will also reinforce the new IAEA slogan of *Atoms for peace and development*. A world free of nuclear weapons is a cherished dream of the entire humankind. We sincerely hope that IAEA will play an important and active role in the implementation of the Treaty.

Madam President,

My Government is encouraged by the ever-growing, productive and multifaceted cooperation between Mozambique and the IAEA.

It comprises areas of coordinated research programmes and technical assistance on radiotherapy and nuclear medicine, agriculture, mineral resources, energy, animal health and production, including the fighting against tsetse flies and trypanosomiasis, the establishment of a training centre in Radiotherapy at the Eduardo Mondlane University. We wish to emphasize, in particular, the excellent relationship between the IAEA and the National Atomic Energy Agency (ANEA), our Regulatory Authority, fully empowered by the Nuclear Law published on 21st July 2017.

We would like to highlight the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy that has proven to be amongst the most successful activities of the Agency with replications in Mozambique. I am pleased to inform that in 2016, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique organized a successful International Conference on Cancer Treatment.

In the spirit of these positive developments, we would like to see a more active involvement of the Agency in the fight against malaria that continues to claim millions of lives in Africa, particularly in Mozambique.

The publication of the above-mentioned Law, will afford the ANEA, and other relevant government agencies, an enhanced enforcement role on the use of nuclear energy in devices, equipment, tools and others. Moreover, we believe the recently enacted Nuclear Law will mark a new era in Mozambique's engagement within the mandate of the IAEA.

In order to implement the Nuclear Law, ANEA has drafted the relevant regulations and the national emergency plan for radiological or nuclear accident, namely:

- 1) Regulation of Radioprotection;
- 2) Regulation of Medical, Occupational and Public Exposure;
- 3) Regulation for the Management of Radioactive Waste and Decommission;
- 4) Regulation of Transport of Radioactive Material and Packages;
- 5) Regulation of Fees and Fines and the
- 6) National Plan for Response on Radiological or Nuclear Accident and Emergency.

Therefore, under the Project Moz9006 (2016-2017), we have requested the IAEA the required technical assistance and expertise for the aforementioned regulations, so that they can be improved and presented to the National Radiation Protection Seminar to be held in Maputo towards the end of October 2017.

Madam President,

In light of our commitment for the application of IAEA safeguards, Mozambique has just concluded the process of selecting the inspectors, as proposed by the IAEA, and we have just conveyed to the IAEA our positive outcome.

To conclude, Madam President, we wish to express our profound gratitude for the continuous support that the Agency has been providing to Mozambique under the Technical Cooperation program.

We reiterate Mozambique's unwavering political commitment to the mandate and purposes of the IAEA, as well as to the strengthening of the existing relationship with the IAEA in its efforts to guarantee nuclear safety and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

I thank you!

Vienna, September 2017