

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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Madam President,

The Namibian delegation joins other speakers to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference. Namibia also welcomes the membership of Grenada to the Agency. We join other Member States in congratulating Mr Amano on his re-appointment by acclamation as Director General of the IAEA for a third term.

The Global community is aligning itself towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This Global Agenda for SDGs has provided additional alignment to Namibia's National development framework.

Namibia is pleased to see that the IAEA has also recalibrated its Strategic Agenda towards the SDGs and in particular development has become an additional motto in the mission of the Agency, as we now proclaim *Atoms for Peace and Development*.

Namibia reiterates its call on the Agency to continue to strengthen developmental efforts through the Technical Cooperation Programme. The following areas such as access to portable water, eradicating poverty and hunger, access to clean and reliable source of energy, environmental sustainability (in line with COP2), access to quality and affordable healthcare, continue to be key enablers for development that must enjoy the IAEA priority attention.

Madam President,

Nuclear energy will continue to be a competitive technology especially in the context of the global interest to preserve the Environment and mitigate the impacts of climate change. In this regard, Namibia being one of the leading producers of uranium, attaches great importance to value addition in the nuclear fuel cycle. We are cognizant of the prerequisite to maintain high standard of nuclear safety, security and safeguarding nuclear material. Namibia reaffirms its commitment to strengthen Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards regime, including to improve and strengthen its regulatory and institutional infrastructure in line with the IAEA recommendations and standards.

Madam President,

Namibia recently deposited the instrument of ratification of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention for the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Therefore, we welcome the International Conference on CPPNM to be held in Vienna, November 2017, to strengthen measures for the protection of nuclear material in domestic storage, use and transportation.

Madam President,

The Namibian delegation further commends the IAEA Secretariat for all its efforts and continuous consultations held with Member States and the agreement reached by negotiating parties to finalize and recommend the adoption of Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021 to the 61<sup>st</sup> General Conference. Although, Nuclear Security is critical, it must not hamper the inalienable right of Member States to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Madam President,

Namibia appreciates the recent international Conference on the IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme. This Conference has clearly demonstrated the impact of the IAEA TC Programme in Member States. Namibia has particularly observed that the IAEA TC programme was successful.

It is with the IAEA TC Programme that we have successfully introduced radiation therapy services in Namibia and now patients who previously did not have access now have access to cancer treatment service.

We have also seen progressive development of local crops through mutation breeding and we are now harvesting crops with important traits such as better yield and drought resistance, which are essential for the climatic condition in Namibia.

The IAEA technical cooperation programme has been instrumental in transferring key technologies in many national development priorities in Namibia. We have seen positive developments and

tangible results in especially human health and food security (crop mutation).

Madam President,

The Challenges we face are not insurmountable and we are confident that with a multilateral approach in which all parties enjoy equal status and mutual benefit we can secure a good future for our people around the world.

I thank you!