

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE
TSITSI MUZENDA, DEPUTY MINISTER OF
ENERGY AND POWER DEVELOPMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE: 61ST REGULAR SESSION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY (IAEA) GENERAL CONFERENCE: 19TH
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Madam President,
Excellencies,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me, at the outset, congratulate you Madam President, on your election to steer the work of the 61st Session of the IAEA General Conference. I wish to pledge my delegation's support and co-operation with you towards the successful discharge of your mandate. In a similar manner, I would also like to congratulate Mr Yukiya Amano on his reappointment as Director General of the IAEA for a third term.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to congratulate the Agency on its 60th Anniversary. Indeed, the last 60 years have been truly remarkable in terms of the phenomenal advances in nuclear science and technology, whose civilian applications have made a huge difference in the detection and management of cancer, radiotherapy, animal disease control and production, crop breeding and production, tsetse fly eradication, soil fertility improvement, among many other areas. Zimbabwe attaches great importance to the mandate and work of the IAEA, and we wish to express our appreciation for the multi-faceted assistance and support that we continue to receive from the Agency in the areas that I have just mentioned above.

Madam President,

With an agro-based economy, Zimbabwe is grateful for the support we have received from the IAEA, during the first two programming cycles. For a country that has faced recurrent droughts over the years, assistance from

the Agency has come in the form of the development of drought and disease resistant crop varieties, as well as in the fight against foot and mouth disease and tsetse fly infestation. With the rebuilding of the national cattle head underway, the IAEA-supported artificial insemination project in the third Country Programme Framework will be an important aspect of our bilateral cooperation going forward.

Madam President,

Cancer has emerged as the number one killer in my country. To help fight this scourge, the Agency has come to our assistance through technical advice, fellowships to medical radiation users, as well as the provision of specialised equipment. I am glad to note that this cooperation will continue into the third Country Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2017 to 2021.

The other areas of collaboration with the Agency include energy planning, soil fertility improvement, water

resource management, radiation safety, and the strengthening of the country's laboratories and relevant institutions involved in nuclear science and technology, accreditation and ISO certification.

Madam President,

Zimbabwe will be signing the third Country Programme Framework during the course of this conference. This follows the presentation of Credentials on Thursday last week by our new Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Taonga Mushayavanhu. These developments are significant, because they signify a renewed engagement with the Agency, and our desire to take our co-operation with the IAEA to a higher level.

Madam President,

While we take primary responsibility for our nuclear technology related development, we want to emphasise that the assistance and support from the IAEA is absolutely essential to sustain on-going technical co-operation projects, as well as new ones. Indeed, we

cannot do it alone, given our limited resources and capacities. We need the IAEA and we appreciate the invaluable support we continue to receive.

It is in this context that we welcome the intention of the Director-General to undertake an official visit to my country in the near future. We will be very pleased and honoured to receive you Mr Director-General, so that you can see for yourself the fruits of our co-operation. You will also be able to sample for yourself the warm hospitality of our people, and the unparalleled beauty and wonder of our world renowned tourist products such as the Victoria Falls, the Great Zimbabwe monument and the pristine Eastern Highlands, among others.

Madam President,

I wish to end my remarks by reiterating Zimbabwe's firm belief in the positive role of co-operation and peaceful co-existence, over reckless brinkmanship and threats to peace, in the conduct of relations between and

among nations. In this regard, we wish to reiterate that the situation in the Korean peninsula calls for more constructive engagement and dialogue, and less inflammatory rhetoric.

Madam President,

Earlier this year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the treaty to ban nuclear weapons. We welcome this important milestone in the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons. We should heed the warning by the great Cuban revolutionary, Fidel Castro, that if we fail to take decisive action now, perhaps “the next world war will be the last one”. We therefore reject the so-called “progressive” approach to nuclear disarmament. Zimbabwe calls for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, because this is the only guarantee we have against the danger that these weapons pose to humanity.

Madam President,

I thank You