

Statement by

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Mr. President,

Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of IAEA,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin my address by congratulating you, Mr. President, upon your election to preside over the 58th General Conference of the IAEA.

I am confident that under your leadership this session will be brought to a successful and harmonious conclusion. Let me assure you the full cooperation of delegation of Ethiopia in this endeavour.

My delegation would like to welcome the delegation of Republic of Djibouti, the Union of the Comoros, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Republic of Vanuatu which have recently joined the Agency. We believe that their Government will take advantage of the membership to benefit through the various programmes of the Agency.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia is engaged in the process of rapid development to extricate itself from poverty and realize its vision of becoming a middle income country by 2026. Poverty eradication is the core development objective of the Ethiopian Government while rapid economic growth is a key strategy to this objective. This rapid economic growth aimed to be broad-based, equitable and sustainable. It is now approaching the final year since the five years Growth and Transformation Plan started to be implemented in all areas of the country. During these periods, the economic growth rate registered is not only rapid but also broad based with significant impact on poverty reduction.

In this regards the peaceful application of radiation and nuclear technology in different sectors which was clearly indicated in the Country Programme Framework has contributed a lot. Recently, Ethiopia is participating in 5 national projects in the current cycle that cover different fields namely; Agriculture, Human health, Industry, Water and quality infrastructure.

Mr. President,

Strong attention was given to the agricultural sector especially on eradication of tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis. We have received technical and material support from the Agency in tsetse mass rearing and sterile male release which enabled the project to address problems and increase the fly colony. The suppression activities conducted so far have enabled the removal of tsetse and trypanosomiasis from most of the project areas. As a result substantial numbers of communities have benefitted from the project through expansion of their farm land and livestock keeping. Remarkable improvement has been recorded in terms of livestock population, milk and meat production, drought power, cultivated land, household income, and cost of treatment against trypanosomiasis. However this success should be supported by eradicating the diseases and the fly using sterile Insect Technique in order not to be re-invaded.

Mr. President,

The installation and commissioning of the industrial irradiator is completed and inaugurated this year. I would like to record Ethiopia's appreciation to the African Development Bank and the Agency's assistance by providing technical, material, expertise and capacity building support.

The support provided by the Agency including the aircraft for the release of sterile males is remarkable which needs to be further strengthened to achieve its objective. In this regards, Ethiopia further wishes to commend the Agency for assigning high priority towards agricultural development.

Mr. President,

In the area of human health, non communicable diseases are increasing worldwide and major increment is seen in low and middle income countries like Ethiopia. Cancer is recognized as major Non Communicable Disease with high incidence and mortality in the country. With a large and fast growing population and experiencing with an increasing number of cancer patients, the current available facility is by far below the standard. So it needs to be expanded. In this regards, the Government has committed and allocate some budget to expand the service to five other university hospitals. Thus our technical cooperation programme to build more modern facilities and expand the infrastructure, as well as the human capacity building to effectively deploy radiotherapy and nuclear medicine is important component for the implementation of the project.

My delegation also wish to express our appreciation to the Agency for the support rendered to our country in the implementation of our radiotherapy and nuclear medicine programmes, particularly in area of human capacity development to ensure effectiveness and sustainability in service delivery for early detection and management of cancer.

Mr. President,

In the industry sector our effort in building a Nondestructive quality testing capability to support metal industry is also proceeding steadily. Developing Non-destructive testing laboratories and its human resource development has got a paramount importance. Even though we have received technical assistance to capacitate the human capital in this area, we didn't achieve what we intended to do. This sector needs critical man power with appropriate skills, abilities, experience, qualification and certification. In this regard, we need to further cooperate with the Agency to train professionals locally through expert mission.

In the water sector, development of an isotope hydrology laboratory through our technical cooperation represents a meaningful contribution to our water resources management efforts. The Government has planned medium and large

scale irrigation development in different areas of the country. However, the groundwater occurrence, movement and quality, and surface water groundwater interaction is poorly known. Limited and fragment hydrogeological studies have been done previously in these areas at different scales and purposes. So we look forward to strengthen our relationship in this area.

The Government has prepared a five years strategic plan to cover the south western and south eastern parts of the country, by hydrogeological mapping and detailed studies in selected promising target areas for groundwater development. Isotope hydrology study will complement these studies and fill the gap in understanding the origin, age, groundwater flow regime and groundwater discharge conditions and area. This project is very helpful to alleviate the problem in locating potable groundwater for development and give clues to sustainable groundwater management in the area.

Mr. President,

All these activities are being carried out in full accordance with the requirement and standard approved by the IAEA. Ethiopia attaches great importance to the mandate and functions of the IAEA in the peaceful use and application of nuclear

and radiation technology for economic and social development. In keeping our commitment, Ethiopia continues to fully meet its obligations to the IAEA, including making timely payment of assessed contributions.

The Government of Ethiopia would like to put on record her sincere gratitude to IAEA for all the support that has been rendered through Technical Cooperation and other projects. However, due to the need of further assistance on capacity building on the application of radiation and nuclear technology, my Government requested the Agency to further strengthen our technical cooperation.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is aware that ensuring a Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) which is sufficient, assured and predictable is important. Hence, I am pleased to announce that FDRE will continue to pledge and contribute its full share of the TCF for the year 2015.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is committed to the function of the IAEA, namely the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technologies and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is for this reason that the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a party to various Multilateral Agreements, Safeguard Agreements, Conventions and related Treaties.

Mr. President,

I am informed that this year's Scientific Forum scheduled for 23 to 24 September 2014 in conjunction with this General Conference, has been dedicated to *Radioactive Waste* which will be focused on radioactive waste and the science and technology available for its safe management.

The central Radioactive Waste Processing and storage Facility, which was fully funded by the Government of Ethiopia, has inaugurated this month. This facility will include an interim storage facility for disused conventional radiation sources and other radioactive nuclear materials. This is an indication of my Government commitment on safe utilization of radiation technology to social and economic development.

The safe and effective management and disposal of radioactive waste is also key to the sustainable use of nuclear technology. The operation of this facility will be an important milestone in building public confidence regarding the ability to safely dispose of radioactive.

As I conclude MR. President, I wish to underscore the importance of the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme as well as the need to ensure adequacy of resources. We reiterate the need to consider the development of nuclear

technology for peaceful applications as a matter of high priority. It is our expectation that in the long run, nuclear technology can help to uplift the socio-economic development of developing countries like Ethiopia.

We look forward to deepening our constructive relationship with you in the future. By working together to implement nuclear safeguards effectively and efficiently in a constantly changing environment.

I thank you for your attention.