

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

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Mr President

My delegation joins other speakers before me to congratulate you on the assumption of the presidency of the 58th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I pledge the support and cooperation of my delegation for a successful conference. My delegation also welcomes the membership of the Comoros, Djibouti, Guyana and Vanuatu to the Agency.

Mr President

On behalf of my Government, I thank the Director-General for his visit to Namibia during December 2013. On this occasion we witnessed the commissioning of a new nuclear medicine facility that now makes quality and vital diagnostic and therapeutic services accessible and affordable to more than 800 000 people in northern Namibia, especially in the area of cancer control. During the 8th *Stop Cervical, Breast & Prostate Cancer in Africa Conference* which was held in Namibia it was again emphasized that cancer is increasingly becoming a public health concern. We are informed that the increasing cancer mortality and morbidity is a global trend and developing countries such as Namibia are the most affected. In this regard Namibia welcomes the Agency's focus on cancer control through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

Mr President

We greatly value interventions that are directed to meet the basic needs of our people, that is interventions that promote quality of health ;enhance food security; create opportunities for people to participate in economic and

industrial development; develop and intellectually empower citizens to pursue a dignified and self-sustaining life. That is why we recognise the IAEA and the role of nuclear technology as important vehicles to provide meaningful interventions in our social and economic development. In this context we acknowledge the Country Programme Framework as an important vehicle that enhances and integrate the application of nuclear technology in our national development programmes. We look forward to signing a new Country Programme Framework to consolidate the good foundation that has been established so far.

Mr President

Food security remains a priority area for Namibia, hence we support initiatives that promote food security. We are encouraged by the positive technological developments, especially in the field of crop mutation to create drought resistant and high yielding crops, and the technology to improve the nutrient efficiency in crop productions. To this end we appreciate the efforts of the Agency to improve the laboratories at Siebersdorf. My delegation welcomes the continued support the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (Joint Division) has provided to Member States in using nuclear techniques to improve food security and sustainable agriculture.

Mr President

While we place great emphasis on technical cooperation and appreciate nuclear technology as a useful tool to enhance social and economic development we are at the same time cognisant of its potential harmful effects. Namibia has made great strides in improving its regulatory framework for control and monitoring of radiological impacts in all facilities and practices. The necessary legislative

and regulatory framework has been established and the institutional infrastructure is in place. As we prepare to expand the scope of nuclear technology application we at the same are also strengthening the regulatory mechanism and capacity for the safe and secure use of nuclear technology, including our responsibility to ensure that nuclear material is used for peaceful purpose only.

Mr President

Nuclear power remains a viable option for many developing countries including Namibia to ensure energy security for sustainable development. In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Namibia has now adopted the *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy*. The *Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy* defines our intentions regarding the extraction, processing and value addition to uranium ore and uranium ore products. It is the inalienable right of Namibia to participate in any and all activities in the nuclear fuel cycle in line with the IAEA statutes and our national development strategies. We welcome discussions that will lead to mutually beneficial outcomes in this area.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Conference that Namibia will be hosting the 51st Uranium group meeting to discuss and exchange technical information on uranium resources, exploration and environmental technologies in cooperation with the IAEA, NEA and OECD.

Mr President

The *Nuclear Science and Technology Policy* pronounce our intentions in the application and utilisation of nuclear technology to human health, agricultural productivity and industrial applications. This and the Nuclear Fuel Cycle policy

are anchored in our Visions 2030, which is to develop “*a Prosperous and Industrialised Country, Developed by Her Human Resources, Enjoying Peace, Harmony and Political Stability*”. In this regard we look forward to a fruitful engagement with the IAEA and other partners to translate these policies into practical strategic interventions that meet the needs and aspirations of the Namibian Nation.

Mr President

Nuclear technology is highly specialised, requiring the development of specialised skills, infrastructure and the ability to translate the technology into viable projects and programmes. One of the key priorities is to translate our policies into meaningful outcomes to improve the level and quality of our education and strengthen our research performance. We have started to develop educational programmes and improve the institutional infrastructure that will support innovation, research and related development activities. We consider mutually beneficial partnerships as the cornerstone to industrial development and using nuclear technology as a vehicle that supports value addition which translates to economic growth and wealth creation for the Namibian Nation.

I thank you