



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION,
HON. ENG SIMON D'UJANGA, MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY,
TO THE 58TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2014,
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation, the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda; I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of this 58th Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency - General Conference. I and my delegation wish to assure you of our full support in working with you to achieve the objectives of this conference.

I wish also to congratulate the newly admitted Member States of the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu, and welcome them to the family of the IAEA.

Mr. President,

My Delegation commends the concerted efforts and remarkable achievements made by the IAEA under the leadership of the Director General, Ambassador Yukiya Amano towards enhancing nuclear safety and security. The Agency has made significant efforts to contain and manage issues of nuclear safety and security of nuclear materials through its advisory role to Member States by providing assistance in developing and implementing nuclear security programs.

Mr. President,

My delegation recognises that the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Agency has accelerated the effective introduction and implementation of the peaceful uses of atomic energy in many developing Member States. Notable positive impacts have been registered in my country in areas such as; energy planning and infrastructure development, food and agriculture, human health, water resource management, nuclear and radiation safety, and human resource development. My delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Agency for its continued commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the programme in Uganda.

Uganda would like to underscore that the partnership with the Agency in the effective utilization of atomic energy in the human health sector has played a pivotal role in the early detection, treatment and management of cancer. Uganda commends the Agency for the invaluable assistance received over the years especially in the field of human resource development and establishment of radiotherapy and nuclear medicine facilities. Through our partnership with the Agency, a new radiotherapy machine is being procured for Uganda Cancer Institute as one of the key steps of strengthening the national cancer management programme.

Mr. President,

Uganda embarked on the nuclear power programme in 2009, and as a newcomer country, we commend the Agency for supporting infrastructure development for nuclear power in Member States. In this regard, my delegation would like to acknowledge the valuable support the Agency has provided to Uganda within the framework of the national project on “Supporting Pre-Feasibility Studies for Launching a First Nuclear Power Plant”. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Agency for the continued support to our national effort to train and build competent and experienced human resource base for the successful and sustainable implementation of our nuclear power programme.

Currently, Uganda is preparing her roadmap for the nuclear power programme. In this regard, significant national efforts are being directed towards enhance energy planning, strengthening nuclear regulatory infrastructure, site selection, technology assessment, stakeholder engagement and human resources development. These activities are implemented by my Ministry in partnership with other government ministries, departments and agencies, and with technical assistance from the Agency.

Mr. President,

Sustainable supply of fuel resources is vital for the successful development of any energy option. Recent air borne geophysical survey undertaken by

my government indicated 80 targets that are geologically favourable for the discovery of uranium resources. My delegation would like to appreciate the Agency's support in strengthening the national capacity for uranium exploration and evaluation. We recognise that the partnership with the Agency will accelerate the process of quantifying the available national uranium resources.

One of the key global challenges of a civilian nuclear power programme is the management of radioactive waste; especially the final disposal of high level waste. My delegation concurs with the choice of the theme for the scientific forum of this conference, "Radioactive Waste: Meeting the Challenge - Science and Technology for Safe and Sustainable Solutions." My delegation will therefore, closely follow the discussions made during the forum to understand advances made in science and technology for the management of radioactive waste.

Mr. President,

In light of the increasing use of atomic energy in the country and the recommendations of the recently concluded Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to Uganda, my delegation would like to inform you that Uganda is working towards strengthening her national infrastructure for control of radiation sources in the human health, food and agriculture, water resource management and industrial sectors. In addition, we are taking special considerations to strengthen the governmental and regulatory infrastructure in preparation for nuclear power.

I wish to re-emphasize the firm commitment of Uganda towards the development and promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy for sustainable socio-economic development. Finally, I wish to thank the IAEA officials and professionals whose devotion and hard work have strengthened the cooperation and partnership with the IAEA and contributed to enhanced service delivery to Uganda.

I thank you, Mr. President.