



**KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
LESOTHO TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
(IAEA), HER EXCELLENCY MRS. LINEO LYDIA**

**KHECHANE-NTOANE**

**AT**

**THE 60<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA).**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**SEPTEMBER, 2016**

**The President of the 60<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference,**

**The Chairperson of the Board of Governors**

**Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Mr. President,**

I wish to first of all congratulate you, on your election to steer us through this 60th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference, I am confident that with your wide knowledge and experience, you will lead us to a successful conclusion of this important event in the Agency's calendar. Rest assured of my delegation's support to you and your team through this important task.

Furthermore, I wish to congratulate and welcome Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia for joining IAEA.

**Mr. President,**

Allow me to acknowledge the great work of the Director General and his team that they have achieved in the past year in executing the IAEA programme, and their support in providing advice, guidance and assistance to member countries, particularly the Kingdom of Lesotho.

We highly appreciate the Director General's visit to Maseru in May this year, we now know that size does not matter.

The fruitful consultations that the Director General undertook with the different Ministers and agencies provided impetus at both political and administrative levels for the implementation of IAEA supported projects. We are thankful for that visit.

**Mr. President,**

The historic Paris Agreement under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) signify that the nations of the world can move mountains when they act in concert and even more significant is that diplomacy and negotiations are central for the attainment of peace and prosperity in the world.

The IAEA is key to the attainment of the Sustainable Agenda and the climate targets for promotion of peace, improvement of health, eradication of hunger and environmental protection, to name but a few. The Technical Cooperation (TC) programme is an important vehicle for countries like Lesotho for implementation of national development goals and the global development agenda in order to improve the living standards of the people.

**Mr. President,**

The Kingdom of Lesotho attaches great importance to the Technical Cooperation programme. Through this programme Lesotho will be able

to effectively respond to some of the challenges that beset us. With the support of the Agency Lesotho will use nuclear technology in a safe and secure manner to amongst others; enhance agricultural productivity and food security, establish the first radiotherapy facility for cancer diagnostic and therapeutic management, augment ground water resources management and strengthen the national energy strategy.

**Mr. President,**

The Government of Lesotho is therefore committed to accelerating implementation of the TC programme through the ministries of Agriculture and Food Security, Energy and Meteorology, Health, Tourism, Environment and Culture, Water, the National University of Lesotho and other relevant agencies.

The need for the regulatory framework is fully appreciated by both the Executive and Parliament. To this end, Cabinet has approved the Bill setting out institutional arrangements and the regulatory framework for nuclear safety, this Bill will be submitted to Parliament after its recess in October of this year.

On capacity building Mr. President, officials from the Ministries and agencies mentioned above continue to benefit from IAEA supported capacity building programme such as training courses, workshops, seminars and attachments. On long term training and development, two (2) doctors will start specialist training on oncology early next year and four (4) will train as medical physicists.

**Mr. President,**

I wish to highlight the important role that the African Regional Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) is playing in building continental capacity and promoting exchange of ideas and best practices. We are grateful for the support that the Agency is affording AFRA.

I am proud **Mr. President**, to state that Lesotho has been paying her fair share of contributions to the Agency and making voluntary pledges to the TC programme and that we are committed to continuing this practice.

On nuclear science, technology and applications, my delegation is encouraged by the strong cooperation between the Agency and the African Union (AU) in the campaign to eradicate tsetse fly and trypanosomosis including other mosquito borne diseases as well as its cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to promote the use of nuclear techniques in agriculture in our member states.

With regard to the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL) project, it is indeed gratifying to note that adequate finances have been mobilised and that construction has begun in Seibersdorf. I commend the twenty-five (25) member states and (AFRA) to which Lesotho is a member for making financial and in kind contributions to this project, thereby making what was a noble dream a reality. Special recognition to the Friends of ReNuAL under the able co-leadership of the Ambassadors of South Africa and Germany who worked tirelessly and continue to do so for the success of this project.

**Mr. President,**

The coming into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) is a commendable achievement for the Agency, Member States and the world at large.

**Mr. President,**

Following the historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Community, My delegation appreciates Iran's commitment and adherence to the JCPOA.

**Mr. President,**

We would once more wish to register our appreciation to the Agency for the support that we have been receiving in the field of Nuclear Security. Basotho have benefitted from IAEA workshops and trainings in Nuclear Security both in our region and elsewhere. In June this year, we held a National Training course in the Security of Radioactive sources, in this too, we received a lot of support from the IAEA.

Lastly **Mr. President**, we look forward to participating at the right level at the high level International Conference on Nuclear Security later this year.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!**