

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. O. NCUBE, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR NATIONAL SECURITY – REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SECURITY:
SUSTAINING AND STRENGTHENING EFFORTS: VIENNA,
AUSTRIA; 10 FEBRUARY 2020.**

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to preface my remarks by congratulating you, Mr. President, for being elected co-President of this Conference. In that regard, I assure you of my delegation's full support during deliberations.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador GROSSI on his appointment as the IAEA Director General for the next four years. My country is ready to collaborate with his team.

Mr. President,

I feel greatly honoured to speak on behalf of the Republic of Zimbabwe at this Ministerial Session of the International Conference on Nuclear Security running under the theme: ***Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts***. This International Conference stands out as a successful example of States coming together to advance shared interests.

Zimbabwe re-affirms and supports the central role of the IAEA in the co-ordination of international activities in the field of nuclear security. My country approved its Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan with the IAEA in 2013, which was also reviewed in 2018. Since then, we have recorded achievements with regards to the deployment of efficient detection and response systems. Currently, Zimbabwe is building sustainable national programs for prevention, detection and response to nuclear security.

Mr. President,

Zimbabwe is fully aware of its obligations towards the International Treaties and Conventions relating to nuclear security and the United Nations Security Council Resolution

1540.To demonstrate its commitment to disarmament efforts, Zimbabwe has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and is finalizing the ratification of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

Zimbabwe's strategic position enables us to play a critical role in combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radio-active materials through regional co-operation within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). However, these and international collaborative efforts are hampered by the effects of illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe which hinder co-operation towards improving the nuclear security regime and application for the improvement of standards of living for our people.

Zimbabwe takes this opportunity to re-affirm its confidence in the security and co-operation regime set out in the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty. As a committed State party, my country is deeply concerned with the slow pace of progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Allow me, Mr. President, to commend the IAEA's continued contribution to the peaceful use of nuclear technologies for socio-economic development through the Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP). Under the TCP, my country has advanced its appreciation of nuclear technologies in the human, health, food, agriculture and security sectors. More so, an educational programme was established in line with my Government's Vision 2030.

Mr. President, in a bid to sustain our efforts, a legislative process is currently underway to amend the Radiation Protection Act and include nuclear safeguards and security.

Zimbabwe stands ready to play its part in international collaboration.

I THANK YOU!!