



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

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MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OF ON THE OCASSION OF  
THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE**

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**VIENNA  
AUSTRIA**

Madam President!

1. Allow me to congratulate you on your election as President of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.
2. We join other delegations in congratulating Mr Rafael Grossi on his appointment as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and wish him continued success as he starts his new tenure of office.
3. Namibia remains committed to support the Agency in carrying out its statutory mandate in the fields of Non-Proliferation, nuclear safety and nuclear security; nuclear applications and technical cooperation. To this end, we take note of performance of the Agency as per the 2022 Annual Report. This year, Namibia acceded to the Revised AFRA Agreement.

Madam President,

4. As a key uranium producer and supplier, Namibia attaches great importance to the Agency's safeguards system which is a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call for universal accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the conclusion of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and ratification of the Additional Protocol by all Member States.
5. Namibia has accepted the modification to the Small Quantities Protocol. Recently, we hosted a training session on uplifting nuclear safeguards in Africa in cooperation with AFCONE and the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority to strengthen and support the nuclear safeguards regime in African States.
6. We commend Member States for financial support the TC Programme, which remains the key vehicle through which developmental programmes that impact everyday lives are implemented. Namibia continues to fulfil her financial obligations to the Agency in time and in full.

Madam President

7. Non-communicable diseases, including cancer are serious burdens that stretch national technical and financial capabilities. We recognize and advocate Primary Health Care as the first line of intervention to fight cancer. We also recognize that nuclear medicine and radiation therapy are crucial modalities in the cancer continuum of care. To this effect, we welcome the resources allocated for the next TC Cycle for radiotherapy interventions and look forward to further strengthen these interventions through the *Rays-of-Hope Initiative*.
8. Unfortunately, current reality is that the supply of radiopharmaceuticals does not satisfy the high demand globally. This leaves small countries like Namibia exposed and

vulnerable in competing and accessing these vital commodities. We urge the Agency to introduce targeted interventions to promote equity in the radiopharmaceutical supply chain. There is an urgent imperative for local production of radiopharmaceuticals using research reactors or other technologies for self-sustainability and self-reliance. This will offer options for more countries to participate in radiopharmaceuticals value chain.

9. Food security and food safety, along with health and education are vital priorities in our national developmental agenda. For this reason, we recognize potential of technical cooperation in the area of food security, especially with respect to the development of high yielding, quality and drought tolerant varieties.
10. The nuclear industry has catalyzed, supported and sustained the economic and industrial development of many developed economies. Developing countries equally aspire to carve a path of sustainable and accelerated socio-economic development by harnessing nuclear technologies, focussing on self-reliance and self-sufficiency, buttressed by strong and mutually beneficial collaborations. This is our future outlook as we work to strengthen our legislative and institutional frameworks to be able to fully participate in the development of various nuclear applications, including the nuclear fuel value chain.
11. Namibia attaches great importance to women empowerment and has achieved notable progress in achieving women representation at all levels. We support the Agency's efforts to increase women representation at the Agency which now stands at 42.5%. We also encourage the Agency to enhance efforts to ensure equitable geographical representation of women at all levels.
12. The global community has recognized the catastrophic consequences of climate change and are now mobilizing all efforts toward the *Net-Zero* Agenda. Namibia is relentlessly pursuing green hydrogen, not only for economic development, but also as key contributor to reductions in national and global greenhouse emissions. We, therefore, welcome the *Scientific Forum*, under the theme *Nuclear Innovations for Net Zero*. We trust that nuclear energy will find a solid and meaningful footing, along renewable energy sources in the net-zero agenda.

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