

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

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Mr. President,

My delegation joins other speakers before me to congratulate you, H.E. Filippo Formica, Permanent Representative of Italy, on the assumption of the presidency of the 59th Session of the IAEA General Conference. I pledge the support and cooperation of my delegation for a successful conference. We would also like to thank H.E. Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, for a successful 58th Regular Session. My delegation also welcomes the membership of the Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan to the Agency.

Mr. President,

Namibia appreciates the IAEA and the role of nuclear technology as important vehicles to provide meaningful interventions in our social and economic development agenda and at the same time promoting global safety and security. We greatly value the Agency's 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 development which will add value to the lives of the people; intellectually empower citizens to pursue a dignified and self-sustaining life. My country continues to stress the importance of a results driven approach which addresses the real needs of member states by safely investigating and deploying nuclear science and technology methods in national programmes.

To this end, Namibia commends the Renewal Project on the

renovations being done at the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf and encourage all Member States to support the Agency in this endeavor.

Mr. President,

Our intentions with regard to the acceleration and enlargement of the contribution of nuclear technology is articulated in our Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy and Nuclear Science and Technology Policy. We are trusting that Country Programme Framework (CPF) will deepen our collaboration and serves as building block to ensure that we attain our aspirations with regard to the deployment of nuclear technology in the context of our national development priorities.

Mr President,

Namibia welcomes the report of the Director-General on the *Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy* and in particular the Agency's proactive role in enhancing its positive contribution to the fight against the global burden of cancer. We take note of the progress made with regard to the inter-agency collaborative efforts and the resource mobilization strategies deployed by the Agency. Namibia being equally affected by the upsurge in cancer morbidity and mortality, look forward to draw from the expertise of the IAEA to develop and implement a responsive strategic agenda to effectively respond to the cancer burden, including the

National Cancer Prevention and Control Strategy and Resource Mobilization Strategy.

Furthermore, Mr. President, food security remains a great challenge and amongst the priority areas for Namibia. 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. We have already observed important characteristics in the crops that have been developed as a result of this nuclear technology and we therefore cannot but emphasize the need to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of the Agency in this area of work.

Mr. President,

Nuclear power remains a viable option for many developing countries including Namibia to ensure energy security for sustainable development, especially considering the Agency's projected growth of Nuclear Power capacity to grow from a current 372GW(e) to 699GW (e) by 2030. My delegation takes note with great interest the progress made with regard to supporting the development and deployment of small and medium sized reactors, recognizing their potential for enhancing energy supply security both in countries that are expanding existing nuclear power programmes and in newcomer countries is important for Namibia. We welcome discussions that will lead to mutually beneficial outcomes in this area.

Furthermore our intentions regarding the extraction, processing and value addition to uranium ore and uranium ore products is well articulated. Namibia is the fifth largest Uranium producing country in the world and we believe that it is the right thing to do by pursuing beneficiation of this raw product and by so doing enhance industrial development, employment creation, skills development, foreign direct investment and other deliverables that may of benefit to the economy. We are open and ready to dialogue with the Agency and to seek synergistic collaboration with like-minded partners.

Mr. President,

My delegation has noted with appreciation the Secretariats' continued to support to Member States under its legislative assistance programme. Country specific bilateral assistance was provided to 20 Member States, including several newcomer countries, in reviewing and developing national nuclear legislation, advising them on their international obligations arising from treaties, and by training fellows in nuclear law. As we embark upon the enlargement and acceleration of nuclear technology to our developmental efforts, we equally remain committed to strengthen our legislative and regulatory infrastructure and therefore welcome the Agency's initiatives such as the integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and the International Regulatory Review Services.

Mr. President,

Namibia strongly believes that the Technical Cooperation Programme is an important mechanism to enhance the development of social and economic priorities, hence we continue to faithfully contribute on time and in full to the technical cooperation fund of the Agency within the five years under review for the application of the due account mechanism. My delegation takes note of the fact that some countries do not voluntarily contribute and yet they continue to draw from the technical cooperation programme. My delegation therefore supports the application of a strengthened due account mechanism to be discussed in 2015/2016.

Furthermore, Namibia would like to take this opportunity to commend the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Programme and Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund Targets for 2016-2017. We are particularly satisfied with the recommendation that the target for voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2015 was set at U\$92 000 000(ninety one million US dollars) and that the Indicative Planning Figure for 2016 should be not less than U\$92 000 000(ninety two million US dollars), and for 2017 should not be less than U\$ 92 500 000(ninety two and a half million US dollars).

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the proposed agenda of the IAEA towards contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indeed SDGs are more ambitious than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and hence call for radical and ambitious interventions if we are to achieve these goals this time around. As an African Union Member, Namibia fully supports the implementation of Agenda 2063, Africa's blueprint for sustainable development over the next 50 years. We will support the realisation of the First Ten Year Action Plan Agenda 2063, with specific focus on priority areas of consolidating peace and security, infrastructure development, improving governance and education systems as well as food security.

Mr President

Namibia welcomes the agreement reached by the negotiating parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Nuclear Activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The world has once again seen that through diplomatic negotiations much can be achieved. Namibia has taken note of the budget changes as requested by the Director General for the verification activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. My delegation would however like to warn that budget adjustments should not impede on the other promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency and should be implemented in letter and spirit and we therefore urge all contracting partners to fully cooperate with the IAEA.

In conclusion my delegation has noted that the number of senior staff members from African Member States has decreased, while Western Europe has the highest number of staff representation, followed by Eastern Europe, North America and the Far East. This situation is undesirable and Namibia calls on the Secretariat to work closer with African countries in order to identify and deploy skilled, diversified and a competent work force in the Secretariat. In this regard we are pleased that the Director General has taken note of the situation, in his opening statement, and we look forward to the imbalance being addressed.

I thank you