

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**COUNTRY STATEMENT TO THE 59th REGULAR SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY 14 TO 18 SEPTEMBER 2015, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

Mr. President,

Director General, IAEA

Excellences,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of United Republic of Tanzania and my delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the Fifty-Ninth Regular Session of the IAEA's General Conference. I would also like to congratulate all other Members elected to the bureau. My delegation assures you all of its unwavering support and cooperation in ensuring that the conference is conducted successfully.

Mr. President,

The United Republic of Tanzania, wish to thank the Director General, Ambassador Yukiya Amano for his leadership in implementing the mandates of the Agency. We would like to appreciate his untiring effort to support appropriate strategies and programmes for the advancement of peaceful applications of nuclear technology and indeed the control of, if not the total ban of nuclear weapons proliferation

Mr. President

I wish also to congratulate the Republic of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan for joining the IAEA family. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomes these new member states to the IAEA and wishes that this becomes the beginning of a rewarding strategic partnership between these new member states and the Agency. My delegation expresses appreciation for the message from the UN Secretary General, H. E. Ban Ki Moon delivered during the opening session of this conference.

Mr. President

My delegation is pleased to note this year's Scientific Forum theme "Atoms in Industry; Radiation Technology for Development" continue to focus on the expansion of industrial applications of nuclear science and technology, hence promoting development and providing further services to industry and the environmental sector. Tanzania is consolidating various industrial application of radiation technology and enhancing capacity for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT); radiation processes for industries; quality agriculture and management of application of nuclear analytical techniques for characterization of mineral potential; environmental monitoring and nucleonic gauges.

However, technical knowledge is yet to permeate all the relevant spheres of developmental activities in my country. To remedy this, the Government recognizes the need in strengthening and updating the knowhow of its human resource by taking full advantage of radiation technology. In so doing, we hope to increase the efficiency and ascertain the reliability and safety of engineering structures in the fourth coming industrialization that will include the anticipated development of the petro-chemical industry in the country.

Mr. President

Over the past years, my Government has been making special efforts in further promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology and their contribution to all areas of national significance. A key element of the Government's approach has been to consolidate the regulatory framework with the occupational exposure control framework, which comprises the now fully operational individual and work-place monitoring programme.

The considerable capacity of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC) to provide radiation protection services and General Support Services will focus on the improvement of waste management infrastructure, development and improvement of the national capacity for addressing the radiological liabilities arising from the anticipated uranium mining, enhancing nuclear security by improving the physical protection of nuclear facilities and materials as well as the prevention of illicit trafficking. While recognizing its ultimate responsibility of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of national regulatory infrastructure for nuclear safety, radiation safety, radioactive waste and transport safety, and the security of radioactive sources, URT appreciates the IAEA's readiness to assist in the peer review process of an 'Integrated Regulatory Review Service' (IRRS) to which we have applied. The IRRS process sets out to accomplish its aim through consideration of both technical and policy issues of a regulatory nature against IAEA safety standards and, where appropriate, good practice elsewhere.

Mr. President

The dramatic growth in cancer cases in Tanzania presents a major challenge to the national health system that must be addressed urgently. The Government is looking at ways to help move the process forward and fast. These include training staff and establishing screening initiatives in regional hospitals, especially for breast, cervical and prostate cancers in line with the implementation of National Cancer Control Strategy (NCCS). The Government of Tanzania has decided to launch a committee of experts in relevant fields of human health, finance and planning in order to accelerate its efforts of resource mobilization for the implementation of this National Cancer Strategy. My government appreciates IAEA's support in the

development of the bankable document that is going to be used for mobilizing resources for the implementation of this strategy, an effort that will save lives of our people, currently lost while technologies for treatment of cancer are already there. The Government will continue working closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this endeavor of resource mobilization for cancer treatment as well as the implementation of NCCS.

Mr. President

The Technical Cooperation (TC) programme between the URT and the IAEA under the ongoing and the new TC cycle focus toward end-user oriented activities with visible socio-economic impact. The current positive trend in terms of planning, programming and implementation of technical cooperation activities, associated to a strong Government commitment vis-a-vis IAEA technology transfer is expected to continue in a much-strengthened manner in the future. The programme is aimed to be consistent with the Government's priorities and are developed through intensive consultations between competent national authorities, stake holders and the IAEA.

In order to address the country's critical problem of energy shortage, the Agency is supporting the Government in projection of energy demand and the development of supply strategies. The outcome of IAEA supported energy plan will lead to the development of a national master plan for energy consistent with Tanzania's vision 2025. The energy planning approach in Tanzania has been applied by other member states and has proved to be very helpful. Through this exercise Tanzania is building its local expertise in energy planning, a service that holds significant value for all energy stakeholders (utility and power companies, research centers, investors, etc.) allowing the government to make timely, informed decisions on managing energy supply and demand.

Mr. President,

Member States need to work together to ensure that nuclear technologies are accessed and used in a manner that ensures maximum safety and security as well as minimum proliferation risks. URT believes that those who ascribe to the goals of the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT), nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States alike, need to do more to demonstrate to the non-State parties and the strayed, that NPT remains the only viable way towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Tanzania believes in actions not pronouncements that would yield the eagerly anticipated goals of the universalization of the NPT. Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is an urgent global imperative. The humanitarian consequences of any nuclear weapon detonation would undoubtedly be catastrophic. It has the assurance of not only spreading across our borders but also to irreparably contaminate our environment and ensure dire consequences to the natural ecosystem, permanently destroying it for generations to come.

Mr. President,

Our reaffirmation to save successive generations of the scourge of nuclear weapons must be real and tangible. We need not overemphasize the fact that the NPT in its broader perspective is the corner-stone of world efforts aimed at the eventual cessation of the arms race and the elimination of nuclear weapons. We sincerely hope and expect that all commitments, which constitute the integral part of the Treaty, will be fully respected and implemented. The United Republic of Tanzania believes that significant progress in Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation are necessary as these two are closely related and mutually reinforcing. We believe that, the slow pace of Nuclear Disarmament weakens the Non-Proliferation regime.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude my statement by appreciating the support from the IAEA and the cooperating parties and reaffirming my Government's commitment in meeting its obligations and maximizing its support to the Agency for achieving its mandated objectives.

Mr. President,

I thank you for your very kind attention.