



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF THE UGANDA DELEGATION,
H.E AMBASSADOR MARCEL R. TIBALEKA
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF UGANDA TO IAEA
DURING THE 59TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE IAEA GENERAL
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 14 - 18, 2015,
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

Mr. President, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates

On behalf of my delegation, the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda; I wish to congratulate you on your election as the President of this 59th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency - General Conference. My delegation wishes to assure you of our full support in working with you to achieve the objectives of this conference.

I wish also to congratulate Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan for their admission as new Member States to IAEA. My delegation warmly welcomes these new Member States to the IAEA family.

Mr. President,

My Delegation appreciates the tireless, strenuous efforts and remarkable achievements made by the IAEA under the leadership of the Director General, Ambassador Yukiya Amano towards enhancing the nuclear safety and security regime. We reaffirms that the Agency's efforts towards promoting the peaceful applications of atomic energy in water resources management, human health, electricity generation, food and agriculture has greatly contributed to the improvement of the wellbeing of humankind.

My delegation recalls and commends the Agency's assistance to the African region following the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014. The Agency provided immediate short term assistance to affected countries to support the use of a nuclear derived diagnostic technique for rapid identification of the Ebola

virus. In addition, the Agency continues to support eleven African countries, including Uganda by providing high-quality training and cutting-edge equipment to support the rapid and safe diagnosis of infectious and deadly zoonotic diseases.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Agency for its continued commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme in many developing Member States and Uganda in particular. As evidenced by Uganda's project proposals for the next Technical Cooperation Cycle 2016/17, our priorities for the peaceful uses of atomic energy include: cancer management; food safety; nuclear and radiation safety; development of nuclear power for electricity production and improvement of agriculture.

Mr. President,

Energy resources are vital in fuelling of any economy. My country has significant resources in oil and gas and recently identified 80 targets that contain favourable uranium resources. Currently, efforts are being directed to strengthen national capacity in uranium exploration and evaluation. And this is being done with support from the IAEA. My delegation wishes to reaffirm its appreciation to the Agency for this support.

Mr. President,

In 2009 Uganda embarked on the nuclear power programme and as a newcomer country, the Agency has greatly assisted in this regard. Under the national project: "Supporting Pre-Feasibility Studies for Launching a First Nuclear Power Plant", the country has so far completed studies on energy planning and preliminary NPP site survey. Current activities are being directed towards strengthening nuclear regulatory infrastructure, stakeholder engagement and human resources development.

Mr. President,

There is a significant rise of atomic energy applications in the country and my delegation would like to reassure you that Uganda is working towards strengthening her national infrastructure for nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards. In line with the theme of this year's scientific forum; "Atoms in industry-Radiation Technology for Development", we re-emphasize the firm commitment of Uganda towards the development and promotion of peaceful uses of atomic energy for sustainable socio-economic development.

Finally, I wish also to thank the IAEA officials and professionals who work tirelessly in offering technical support to my country. In particular, Mr. President, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the DDG-TC for the visit he made to Uganda in May 2015. During the visit, the DDG-TC held consultations with Government authorities on strategic policy and programmatic issues related

to the cooperation between Uganda and the IAEA. This further strengthened the partnership and cooperation between my country and the Agency.

I thank you, Mr. President