



STATEMENT

BY

**H. E. MR. RAPHAEL DINYADO,
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO
AUSTRIA AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE UN**

AT

**THE IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR
SAFETY**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

20-24 JUNE 2011

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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO AUSTRIA AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN DURING THE IAEA MINISTERIAL
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AUSTRIA**

Mr. President

Director-General

Distinguished Delegates

My delegation congratulates you, Mr President, on your election to the Presidency of IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. We have confidence that under your skillful guidance, the deliberations of this Conference will be brought to a successful conclusion. I therefore pledge Namibia's support and full cooperation.

Mr President,

My delegation joins the Speakers before me in expressing my deepest sympathies, condolence, and solidarity to the Government and people of Japan and the victims of the natural disaster that occurred in March this year.

Namibia wishes to express sincere gratitude and use this opportunity to acknowledge with satisfaction the great professionalism and good leadership of the Director-General's initiative for convening this important Ministerial Conference. We believe that this meeting will serve as a platform for the initial

assessment of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and for the thorough exchange of views on the lessons to be learned from it, with a view to further strengthening the nuclear safety framework and the emergency preparedness and response mechanisms, as well as to adequately define the role of the IAEA in this vital area.

Mr. President

Namibia is endowed with abundant uranium resources and contributes a significant portion to world uranium production. As such we are pleased that the International Atomic Energy Agency has initiatives to assist Member States to respond to the challenges that are associated with uranium mining , processing and nuclear power generation, especially with regard to policy and regulatory framework. The objective of the Namibian Government is that our uranium resources are exploited safely for economic benefit of all our people without undue health and environmental risk on the current and future generations. The Namibian government upholds the principal that, its uranium is only used for peaceful purposes, in line with the Treaty on Non-proliferation.

Namibia is in the process of developing the Nuclear Fuel Cycle Policy to put in place an effective legislative and regulatory framework to administer the fuel cycle from uranium mining, fuel fabrication, safe decommissioning of facilities and disposal of radioactive waste. Namibia attaches great importance to nuclear safety and fully understands that it is a national responsibility and will adopt IAEA's safety standards for use in our National regulations to ensure a high level of safety in the peaceful use of nuclear material, radiation sources and operation of nuclear power plants. Namibia, further undertakes to accede and ratify without delay the

Convention on Nuclear Safety and relevant Treaties, before we construct any nuclear power plants.

Mr President,

The Fukushima incident serves as a learning curve, and Namibia shall conduct a thorough investigation of any possible nuclear incidents before embarking on nuclear power development, to ensure that the nuclear power plant design incorporate all safety features to effectively mitigate the effects of such accidents to the environment and human health.

My delegation therefore appreciates the work and commitment of the Agency to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy , enhance nuclear safety and security to improve operational safety standards when constructing nuclear power plants.

Mr. President,

Finally, the Namibian Delegation is confident that the lessons learned and outcome of this conference will enhance and strengthen nuclear safety worldwide.

I thank you, Mr. President.