

Revised



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**NATIONAL STATEMENT**

**BY**

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NAMIBIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY DURING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
NUCLEAR SECURITY: ENHANCING GLOBAL EFFORTS**

**01 – 05 JULY 2013  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

Mr. President  
Director General  
Your Excellencies  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

May I, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and of my delegation also join the speakers before me in congratulating you on your election to the presidency of this Conference, the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership this Conference shall conclude with a successful and meaningful outcome.

Please allow me to thank the two co-chairs, their Excellences, Ambassadors of Brazil and Hungary, as well as the IAEA secretariat for the excellent work in preparation for this conference.

Mr President

Our guiding principles as a country are amongst others to:

- (i) promote international cooperation, peace and security;
- (ii) create and maintain just and mutually beneficial relations among nations; and
- (iii) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations for the good and welfare of our people and our fellow citizens of the world over.

We are ever conscious of the dual nature of nuclear technology as a major and unique tool to contribute to our national priorities and also as a significant threat to national and international peace.

As a nation we appreciate the beneficial role of nuclear technology and seek to exploit it as one of the vehicles to enhance the social and economic well being of our people. This aspiration is expressed in our current initiatives to create the policy and institutional framework to accelerate and enlarge the peaceful application of nuclear technology in Namibia. We equally respect the inalienable right of each and every Member State to have access to and exploit the beneficial applications of nuclear technology.

Mr President

We are similarly mindful of the risks associated with nuclear technology. It is common knowledge that if these risks are not effectively managed they may pose disastrous consequences on the health, safety and peace of the very people whose interest we claim to promote by using the nuclear technology.

While in reality it may not be the case, it is unquestionable that every State should have in place the necessary administrative, technical and operational mechanisms to guarantee the safety, health and peace of its people. On the other hand many countries do have regulatory mechanisms in place, but the requirements and systems of operation are often widely different from country to country.

Mr President

These two scenarios illustrate the point that threats involving radioactive and nuclear material are, and understandably so, not valued the same nor are these managed with the same urgency, or the risks in some cases may be managed incommensurately from country to country. This presents the inevitable state of affairs where a threat in one State and the associated management systems have implications for other States.

Mr President

We must recognise the complexity of activities involving nuclear technology as it often involves cross-boundary movement and transfer of radioactive and nuclear material across the continents. We therefore call for an integrated approach not only with regard to harmonising our national systems, but also with respect to our response mechanisms to issues of safety, security and safeguards. This also calls for greater cooperation among States, regulators, manufacturers and suppliers to create harmonised systems under which we can equally provide assurance of protection, safety and security for all our people. We believe that the IAEA has the mandate and should take an aggressive approach to advance the integration of systems and cooperation amongst stakeholders taking into consideration the threats and risks in regional and international context.

Mr President, we are also mindful of the responsibilities of each State to ensure that the national threats and risks are assessed and appropriate response systems developed to manage these. In Namibia we have established the legislative framework and cooperative mechanisms to advance and sustain a high level of security of radioactive and or nuclear materials that are / may be in our territory and those that transit across our borders. We recognise that there are some challenges that still need to be addressed, which require the cooperation of concerned parties and partners. In particular the question of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is among the challenges that must be addressed in tandem with the UN General Assembly Resolution 67/44 on Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Mr President

Namibia is committed to maintain highly effective nuclear security, including physical protection, for all nuclear and other radioactive materials, their transport, use and storage and their associated facilities, as well as protecting sensitive information and maintaining the necessary nuclear security systems and measures to assess and manage nuclear security effectively in conformity with our national and international instruments.

In conclusion, Mr President, Namibia stands ready to cooperate with the IAEA and to seek synergies with partners in a manner that would be of mutual benefit and advancing our common interests. My delegation, therefore, trust that the outcome of this Conference will further enhance the on-going efforts of the Agency and its Member States to effectively manage nuclear security across the globe.

I thank you, Mr President.