



Republic of Botswana

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE IAEA**

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**TO THE 63rd REGULAR SESSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

16-20 September 2019

- ***President of the 63rd General Conference;***
- ***Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,***
- ***Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Heads of Missions and International Organizations***
- ***Distinguished Delegates***

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Botswana, it is my pleasure and privilege to address the 63rd Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate the Resident Representative of Mexico to the IAEA on assuming the Presidency of 63rd IAEA General Conference. We are fully committed to participate in the activities of the General Conference and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

On a sad note, I wish to convey our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the IAEA Community, and to the family of the departed Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano.

We are deeply saddened by his passing, and pay tribute to his visionary leadership at the IAEA during his tenure as Director General. We fondly recall that he came to Botswana in 2018 and visited various successful projects in the areas of animal health, environmental monitoring and plant protection. We greatly appreciate the support he offered to Botswana in the areas of cancer management, water and energy planning.

We will forever remember his contribution towards “Atoms for peace and Development”. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

On another sad note, I take this opportunity to offer the condolences of my country to our neighbour, the sister Republic of South Africa on the tragic loss of life of their Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Ms Bavelile Hlongwa. May her soul find eternal rest.

President, I pledge Botswana’s support to the Acting Director General, and the staff of the IAEA. I applaud you for working tirelessly to organise this conference where annually, nations congregate to showcase the benefits derived from peaceful use of nuclear technology, and to promote its peaceful use.

Botswana fully supports the work of the IAEA, which has ensured that for decades, nuclear and radioactive materials are safeguarded by those who subscribe to the principles of the IAEA. It is in this regard that we commit to contribute to the Working Capital Fund, Regular Budget and to the Technical Cooperation Fund to support the execution of the IAEA mandate.

This year's Scientific Forum's theme, "Action on Cancer Control and Way forward" - challenges us as Botswana to take stock and endeavour to develop comprehensive national cancer management programs, including the radiotherapy center and the Sir Ketumile Masire Teaching Hospital. This will considerably reduce the Government bill of outsourcing cancer treatment, and ensure improved service delivery to the patients who desperately need this service. We are therefore thankful for the technical support that is provided by the IAEA to make this a reality.

Through the Technical Cooperation programme, Botswana endeavours to utilise nuclear technology for economic development.

We continue to undertake projects, through the support of IAEA, which we believe will have a positive impact on the livelihoods of the citizens.

I am pleased to report that all the projects in the current technical cooperation cycle are progressing well. We extend our sincere gratitude to the IAEA and its staff who provide technical support to the individual projects.

President, with regard to Nuclear Security, Botswana joins the international community in condemning malicious acts where nuclear technology is used. To this end, we have developed an Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan, and thank the IAEA for facilitating its second review in March 2019.

New priority areas for the years 2019-2021 were identified in this process, and we are committed to seeing the implementation of these activities, to improve nuclear security not just in Botswana but regionally and internationally. We advocate for peaceful uses of nuclear technology and continue to comply with the provisions of the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol; we encourage other member states to do so.

President

The benefits accrued from participation in the African Regional Cooperation for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) programme are noticeable. This is especially so in the area of skill and knowledge development through trainings and fellowships.

One of Botswana's priorities is to transform the economy from a resource - based to a knowledge based economy; therefore we see this as one of the platforms that we can take advantage of. We will therefore continue to honour our contributions towards the AFRA fund for smooth implementation of the AFRA programme.

In conclusion, I reiterate Botswana's commitment to supporting IAEA activities, and the full participation of our delegation in this week's activities.

Once again, our sincere gratitude goes to the IAEA for its continued support for implementation of all the programmes that Botswana is currently undertaking.

I Thank you.

