

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



## STATEMENT FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME.

**26 – 28 NOVEMBER 2024**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

*\*Check Against Delivery.*

1. **Co- Chairs**, Namibia congratulates you in your roles of this Ministerial Conference. Rest assured of our full support and cooperation.
2. Mr President, Namibia attaches great value to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Technical Cooperation Programme has and continues to serve as the major modality for technology transfer to developing countries such as Namibia.
3. Articles II and III of the IAEA Statute is unequivocal in spelling out clearly that the IAEA's mandate is to encourage and assist research, development and practical application of peaceful uses of atomic energy with due consideration of the needs of the developing nations. We are also mindful that the same Statute call for the safety of radiation sources; protection of people and the environment; security of source and nuclear material; and safeguarding against non-peaceful uses of nuclear technology.
4. This Ministerial Conference comes at a time of pronounced geopolitical tensions, and as a country we continue to advocate for dialogue, diplomatic negotiations, and consensus-building as the preferred methods to resolve differences. We are therefore pleased to join consensus on the Ministerial Declaration as Namibia actively contributes to advancing the objectives of the IAEA, and fully supports the vision encapsulated in '*Atoms for Peace and Development.*'
5. We therefore also want to express our appreciation to the Director General, Rafael Grossi, for his relentless efforts in advancing the mission of the IAEA and to ensure that the benefits of nuclear technology become accessible to all. We fully support his flagship initiative namely Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, and Atoms4Food.
6. Mr President, the delivery mechanism of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme through the development of the Country Programme Framework (CPF) and subsequent technical cooperation projects derive from the CPF has been under implementation for several years. It may warrant a review to confirm if in its current form it is the most effective approach. The IAEA should encourage and support countries to develop

national policies and strategies on nuclear, science, technology and applications and integrate these in their national development plans. This would be one of the innovative approaches to ensure that there is increased ownership by Governments.

7. **Mr. President**, in Namibia, cancer has become a leading cause of death, accounting for approximately 9% of all deaths annually. While Primary Health Care is critical to combating this scourge, we recognize nuclear medicine and radiation therapy as vital in the continuum of care for cancer patients. Hence, we look forward to strengthening the Agency supported interventions through the *Rays-of-Hope Initiative*.
8. **Mr. President**, in recent years, Namibia has witnessed a three-fold increase in uranium production, driven by rising global demand for nuclear power. The 2023 IAEA Annual Report projects continued growth in this sector, with Namibia being a key supplier to meet the increasing demand. Our Government is committed to exploring the feasibility of incorporating nuclear power into our national energy mix, recognizing its potential to contribute to energy security, reduce emissions, and accelerate socio-economic development. We are focused on promoting nuclear energy as a component of our national energy strategy.
9. Mr. President, Namibia places great importance on women's empowerment and has made notable progress in increasing female representation at all levels. We fully support the Agency's efforts to enhance this representation and to continue striving for equitable geographical representation of women across all levels.
10. Mr. President, the Namibian delegation looks forward to a successful and productive Ministerial Conference. We stand ready to contribute constructively to the important discussions over the next three days.

Thank you.