

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY
DR SHITALENI HERMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC
ENERGY BOARD OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 69TH SESSION OF THE IAEA
GENERAL CONFERENCE.**

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VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Mr. President, accept my delegation's heartfelt congratulations on your election as President of the 69th Session of the General Conference. Rest assured of our full support and cooperation. Namibia warmly welcome and congratulate the Republic of Maldives for the accession to the membership of the IAEA.

We also thank the Director General, Rafael Grossi, for his relentless efforts in advancing the mission of the IAEA and in particular advancing the motto '*Atoms for Peace and Development*'

Equally, Namibia fully supports your endeavors in fulfilling the Agency's mandate, including *Non-Proliferation*; *Nuclear Safety*, *Nuclear Security*; and the *Application of Nuclear Technologies*. We take note of the Agency's 2024 Annual Report, detailing significant progress over the past year.

Mr President, the preceding year has been eventful for Namibia as we have recently witnessed the inauguration of our 5th democratically elected President, Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and the 8th Administration. Her Excellency, the President and indeed the people of Namibia are resolute that our natural resources must work for the good of its people.

Mr. President, the nuclear industry has been a catalyst for sustained economic and industrial development in many developed nations. Developing countries, including Namibia, aspire to similarly harness nuclear technologies to accelerate socio-economic development. To this end our 6th National Development Plan has adopted an ambitious approach to position nuclear industry as one of the key sources of economic growth, including the exploitation of opportunities within the nuclear fuel cycle. Our President, earlier this year, has unequivocally pronounced Namibia desire to explore nuclear power. We are pursuing the establishment of a strategic framework through which we can fully realise the economic benefits of nuclear within our economy while also strengthening our legislative, regulatory framework and capacity for adherence to the international legal instruments and standards to maintain high level of nuclear safety, nuclear security and world peace.

Mr. President, the Agency's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme is central to the Agency's mission as it positions the IAEA at the centre of the developmental agenda, as opposed to narrow view of the Agency as a "nuclear watchdog". We commend Member States that have consistently supported the

TC Programme through financial contributions, whether assessed, voluntary, or extra-budgetary. The TC Programme remains the primary vehicle for implementing developmental initiatives that directly impact the daily lives of our citizens. Thus, we have a duty to ensure and prioritize predictable and assured funding that matches the needs expressed by Member States.

Mr President, Namibia has aligned its 2026/27 TC Programme to the national development priorities as articulated in our NDP 6. We intend to continue building on the foundations of previous TC Cycle, including strengthening our national cancer control interventions; developing resilient crops for food security; building capacity for food safety and animal health; and enhancing our capabilities for water resource management. Equality in the National Programme for Research, Science, Technology and Innovation, Namibia has prioritized the development of research, science and technology for nuclear applications in energy, water, food security and health to solve our own challenges. To this extent, and to support our nuclear focus areas, we also intend to review our legal framework; enhance our governance framework; develop human resources capacity; strengthen radio-analytical capabilities; investigate the options in the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium conversion and preparing for a future nuclear power programme;

In recent years, Namibia has witnessed a three-fold increase in uranium production, driven by rising global demands. The 2024 IAEA Annual Report projects continued growth in this sector, with Namibia being a key producer and supplier to meet this increasing demand.

Mr President, as one of the world's major uranium producers and suppliers, Namibia places immense value on the IAEA's safeguards system, the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call for universal adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and encourage all Member States to conclude Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the Agency, and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocols. Namibia has and will continue to maintain strict compliance with these protocols, ensuring that our uranium resources are utilized for peaceful purposes only.

At a time of pronounced geopolitical tensions, we advocate for dialogue, diplomatic negotiations, and consensus-building as the preferred methods to resolve differences.

Namibia remains firmly committed to pledging our solidarity with the legitimate cause of the Palestinian people, we reiterate our commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the question of Palestine, which has long been before the General Assembly and the Security Council. Namibia continues to advocate for a viable Palestinian state, existing side by side in peace with Israel within internationally recognised pre - 1967 borders.

The war in Gaza has led to the destruction of critical health infrastructure. Despite our own pressing domestic needs, we are unable to overlook the dire need in the Gaza strip for critical care. In view of the above, we call on the Agency to provide urgent technical assistance and support to the people of Palestine where needed.

Mr. President, my delegation looks forward to a successful and productive General Conference and Scientific Forum on Atoms for Water. We stand ready to contribute constructively to the important discussions and decisions that lie ahead.

I thank you.