



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HON. TLOHANG SEKHAMANE**

AT

**THE 59TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA).**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

15 SEPTEMBER, 2015

The President of the General Conference,

The Chairperson of the Executive Board,

**Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mr.
Yukiya Amano**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you, Mr, President on your election as the President of the 59th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference. I assure members of your Bureau and of the Secretariat, of the full support of my delegation as you guide the deliberations of this General Conference.

I also wish to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Turkmenistan on their decision to join the IAEA.

Mr. President,

As the sun sets on the Millenium Development Goals and a new dawn approaches for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, it is my belief that the IAEA will continue to play a povital role in our pursuit to create a better world by continuing to support those of us in the developing world through Technical Cooperation Programmes. These Programmes have contributed immensely in promoting the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development in Lesotho and Africa as a whole. Despite the fact that Lesotho joined the Agency only in 2009, our Technical Cooperation Programme has been growing considerably, and we are grateful to the Agency and the Cooperating Partners for their invaluable support.

Our focus as Lesotho has been on Water Resources Management, Livestock and Crop Production, Cancer Theraphy and Energy Planning, to name but a few.

Mr. President,

We pledge our support to the ideals of the IAEA, and we will continue to play our part; and to that end we are committed to making good our pledge to the Technical Cooperation Fund. In this regard, I wish to encourage the developed countries to graciously

continue to increase their financial contributions as they have always done in the past.

It would be remiss of me, Mr. President, if I did not take a moment to acknowledge the impressively swift response on the part of the IAEA and indeed the International Community towards EBOLA outbreak in the African Continent. There is no doubt in my mind that through the joint effort of the international community, EBOLA will be eradicated in our lifetime.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging to see the Director-General and his team striving towards gender parity and an equitable regional distribution with regard to the staffing of the Agency. We would like to see special calls to the unrepresented and grossly underrepresented regions, as well as emphasis on women candidates. We will also make a special effort to field competent candidates from our part of the world.

Mr. President,

I would like to heartily acknowledge the excellent efforts of the IAEA through the stewardship of the South African and German Ambassadors as co-chairs of the ReNual (renewal) Initiative to

upgrade laboratory facilities in Siebersdorf. We appeal to the developed and developing countries alike, to step up and close the funding gap, in order to achieve this noble plan. These laboratories are an integral part of the TC programme, and therefore key in enabling countries like Lesotho to achieve their development goals.

On the implementation of NPT safeguards, Mr. President, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Community, for achieving the historic Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action of 14 July, 2015. The road ahead is not an easy one, but indications are that there is adequate commitment on all sides to execute the road map. The world is watching with anticipation and trepidation; but we are confident that there will be a the positive outcome.

I must also register our appreciation Mr. President, for the support that we received for the development of the Integrated Nuclear Support Plan, and the successful Workshop on Threat Assessment in Nuclear Security in Maseru and we look forward with great anticipation to further cooperation with the Agency.

Finally, Mr. President as the outgoing AFRA Chair, Lesotho would like to express her unreserved gratitude to AFRA's Partners for their

financial and in kind contributions, the IAEA which serves as AFRA's Secretariat, the AFRA Member Countries and the IAEA family in general for the support accorded us during our Chairmanship. It was truly heartening. We wish for the same, if not more support for the incoming Chair of AFRA.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!