

Information Circular

INFCIRC/742

Date: 11 December 2008

General Distribution

Original: English

Statement delivered in the Board of Governors on 28 November 2008 by the Resident Representative of Zimbabwe on behalf of the group of members of the African Union concerning the appointment of the Director General

On 28 November 2008, the Resident Representative of Zimbabwe to the Agency delivered a statement in the Board of Governors, on behalf of the group of members of the African Union, concerning the appointment of the Director General.

As requested in the statement, the statement is herewith circulated for the information of Member States.

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GRACE TSITSI
MUTANDIRO OF ZIMBABWE, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP
OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN VIENNA AT THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS, 27-28 NOVEMBER 2008**

AGENDA ITEM: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson,

The Group Members of the African Union wishes to recall that at our Board meeting held on 6 October 2008, we agreed on the procedures for the appointment of the Director General, as Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei indicated that he will not be available for another term of office.

In this regard and on behalf of the Group of Members of the African Union I would like to use this opportunity to inform the Board of a recent decision by the African Union on African candidatures for posts within the international system.

Chairperson,

It is an honour for me to convey to the Board that the African Union Summit held from 24 to 28 June 2008 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, took a decision, contained in document EX.CL/Dec.453 (XIII) to endorse the candidature of Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa for the post of Director General of the IAEA in the event that the incumbent Director General, Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei of Egypt, decides not to avail himself for the next term.

The Group wishes to inform the Board that the nomination of Ambassador Minty for the position of Director-General of the IAEA is the first of its kind since the dawn of a democratic dispensation in South Africa. The Group believes that Ambassador Minty will serve this organisation with distinction, given his long standing commitment and involvement in matters related to the Agency's objectives and mandates. The Group firmly believes that the IAEA will benefit from Ambassador Minty's experience and international exposure, both as a seasoned diplomat and an expert on nuclear-related issues.

The Group is confident that Ambassador Minty will continue to promote the critical role the Agency must play in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Furthermore, Ambassador Minty has the requisite managerial and technical knowledge as well as the experience to guide the IAEA towards finding creative solutions to effectively address the new questions and challenges arising from the dynamic environment in which the Agency operates.

The Group calls upon the Members of the Board of Governors to support the candidature of Ambassador Minty.

In conclusion, Chairperson, I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Board.