

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MS LYDIA GREYLING, MINISTER
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VIENNA**

**SYMPOSIUM ON PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY: TOWARDS
THE 2015 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE AND BEYOND,**

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Session 1: Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology in the context of the
NPT

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to share South Africa's views on this important topic and congratulate the Permanent Missions of Brazil and Japan for hosting and co-ordinating this event.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

South Africa continues to believe that the credibility and relevance of the NPT rest upon the fulfilment of the grand bargain on which the Treaty was founded. States that were not in possession of nuclear weapons agreed they would not acquire nuclear weapons in exchange for access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and a legal commitment by those with nuclear weapons to nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

It is our firm belief that this bargain, enshrined in the three pillars of the NPT, negotiated and equally agreed to by the members of the international community, must be implemented in all its aspects without favour or prejudice and no aspect should be more strictly enforced or require stricter implementation than any other. In

this regard, we remain deeply concerned about the lack of implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligations and commitments made in the outcome documents of the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences. This view has been reflected by many Member States, including South Africa, in statements during the NPT review process and in other multilateral fora.

Having said this, South Africa has on several occasions pointed out that peaceful nuclear co-operation and access to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, pursuant to Article IV of the NPT, constitute one of the core objectives of the Treaty and are of particular relevance and importance to Africa. In the African continent there is an urgent need for sustainable and accelerated economic growth. In this context, South Africa continues to promote international co-operation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities and encourages the exchange of scientific information, particularly in Africa, for the further development of the applications of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

South Africa attaches great importance to the IAEA as the vehicle for accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. It is through the IAEA and its Technical Cooperation Programme that the third pillar of the NPT is implemented. Through its TCP, the IAEA plays an essential role in the development of technologies to improve food security, food safety, water resource management and the impacts of climate change. These nuclear-related and complementary technologies are developed at the Nuclear Application Laboratories at Seibersdorf and help to improve the living standards of people around the world.

South Africa believes that the IAEA's success in developing technologies such as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), and supporting Member States in their implementation thereof, is one of the best examples of the practical application of nuclear technology for development. You may recall that on 28 June 2011, the FAO General Assembly adopted a resolution containing the Declaration on Global Freedom from Rinderpest. The instrumental role of the Joint Division of the IAEA and the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO/IAEA Joint Division) was highlighted in this eradication campaign, through the introduction and expansion of

diagnostic capabilities in developing countries. The eradication of this livestock disease will translate into savings in terms of meat imports and loss of livestock of up to 1 billion US\$ per year in Africa alone. This technology is not only beneficial to developing countries. Thanks to progress on the control of the Mediterranean fruit fly, a multibillion dollar fruit industry is protected with SIT in the United States. These technologies are also being used for the eradication of the Peste des Petite Ruminants (PPR).

I would like to highlight other key initiatives that deserve special mention:

Nuclear and derived technology developed by the scientists from the FAO/IAEA Joint Division at Seibersdorf, brought about a dramatic improvement in the early diagnosis of infectious transboundary diseases. In addition, the Joint Division has been able to condense four years of research using isotope technology and nuclear-related techniques into one small, portable kit - a mobile laboratory. The system is capable of performing rapid and highly accurate diagnostic tests, on-site, in under an hour. In the past, several days were needed to perform the same diagnosis in a well-equipped laboratory. This has revolutionised the rapid and reliable diagnoses of diseases, resulting in effective disease prevention and control.

In 2011 the Agency developed a TC project to build veterinary capacities in sub-Saharan Africa entitled “Strengthening Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in Africa for Rapid and Specific Diagnosis of Transboundary Animal Diseases” . Through this project a veterinary diagnostic network has been created, which was acknowledged, within the second year of the project’s implementation by experts in the veterinary field, as a viable network. This VETLAB project is funded through the South African “African Renaissance and International Co-Operation Fund” (ARF) and the IAEA’s Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). The Network comprises 32 African countries with certain reference country laboratories such as Ethiopia, Botswana and Cameroon that are already performing diagnostics and developing human resource capacity in the region, thus contributing to early warning systems and the prevention of animal diseases that have a severe economic impact, such as African Swine Fever (ASF) and Peste des petite ruminants (PPR).

This project has provided a platform for the Agency's support to countries fighting the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak and Member States will be supported to develop or strengthen national and regional capacities and networking in the application of quick and accurate diagnostic and control technologies for zoonotic diseases. In layman's terms the Agency will now provide support to Member States to address the animal/human interface of diseases.

The Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme is the vehicle for delivering nuclear and nuclear related technologies to Member States, and as already demonstrated these projects do not only provide for the transfer of technology but also develop regional capacity, ensuring long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency.

The Agency through its Technical Cooperation Programme played a meaningful role in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and in enhancing the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), thus contributing towards alleviating poverty in our region. South Africa believes that the Agency will have an important role to play in the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDG) and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda, where science and technology will occupy an important place.

It is however important to ensure that the Agency has sufficient resources to continue to provide life-saving services through its Technical Cooperation Programme. Increasing demands are being made on the Agency as more countries turn to nuclear energy and other applications, or expand their peaceful nuclear activities. More and more States are approaching the Agency to advise them in the preparatory, start-up, running and end-life phases of their nuclear facilities. New members of the IAEA are invariably developing countries and look towards the Agency for the development and transfer of nuclear technology and its application for development.

To ensure that the Agency is able to continue with the research and development of these technologies in future and is able to meet the growing needs of Member States, it is essential that the Nuclear Application Laboratories in Seibersdorf, now 50 years old, are modernised.

South Africa believes that, as the international community is now shaping the post-2015 development agenda, the need for this dedicated adaptive Research and Development capacity on a global scale in the Agency is of critical importance. The gains made by the Agency in the peaceful application of nuclear technology is indisputable. Therefore Member States must continue to invest in and support these activities of the Agency.

As we look towards the future it is our firm belief that the NPT can only remain relevant if the grand bargain is honoured and the NPT is implemented in its entirety. We therefore value the opportunity to share experiences and promote the important work of the Agency, in this regard, during this symposium. It is our hope that this initiative by Japan and Brazil will have a positive impact on our deliberation in the RevCon later this year and continue to promote the benefits of peaceful uses and the role of the Agency in future.

Thank you for your attention.