Check Against Delivery

STATEMENT BY

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Mr. President,

Permit me first and foremost to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its comprehensive 2013 Annual Report which highlights the outcomes of the review of the Agency’s wide-ranging and important activities conducted during the year. Let me also express our appreciation for the continued commitment and leadership of the Director-General of the IAEA, Ambassador YUKIYA AMANO, in complimenting and encouraging the efforts of member states in taking concrete measures for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

Ethiopia commends the IAEA for its continued efforts in discharging its responsibilities to help member states use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We believe that IAEA’s three pillars: Nuclear Technology and Its application, Nuclear Safety and Security, Nuclear Verification and Technical Cooperation will continue to play a key role as a catalyst for sustainable development by promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy while minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation. On the other hand, IAEA’s technical cooperation program, the preservation and management of nuclear knowledge continues to be a high priority for many member states. In this regard, the development of nuclear power projects and promotion of the application of nuclear technology to medicine, particularly to human
health, food and agriculture and environment protection are worth mentioning.

We are also of the view that both national measures and international cooperation are essential for nuclear and radiation safety. We would further like to emphasize that the Agency has a key role to play in the promotion of a global security safety culture. The Agency’s safeguards, in this regard, are believed to be basic components of the non-proliferation regime and create an environment conducive to peaceful nuclear use and safety. Furthermore, in responding to the serious security threats from non-State actors, particularly terrorists who seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, the collaborative efforts by member states, IAEA and other treaty bodies, international organizations and civil society are critical. Similarly, the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) is also essential to address the challenges associated with prevention of the possession of nuclear and other related dangerous weapons by non-state entities.

**Mr. President,**

In Ethiopia, the Agency’s technical cooperation continues to significantly support the government’s efforts to develop capabilities in the control of Tsetse flies, cancer treatment, diagnostic nuclear medicine services, Isotope hydrological analysis and non-destructive quality testing and national nuclear science and technology infrastructure. We have improved our capacity through manpower training, equipment acquisition, expert missions and other forms of technical assistance from the IAEA.
Ethiopia, as a signatory to a number of IAEA treaties and conventions, has always been supportive of the Agency's advocacy for peaceful use of nuclear technology. We also firmly believe that the provision of sufficient and predictable resources to the programs of the Agency and, more importantly, balanced distribution of resources to the safeguards, nuclear safety and technical cooperation activities of the Agency need to be ensured. The Technical Cooperation programme is in fact playing a crucial role as a means to transfer nuclear technology to developing countries like Ethiopia.

Mr. President,
Our biggest technical cooperation project with the IAEA is aimed at eradicating Tsetse fly from the Southern Rift Valley region. Indeed, the wide-spreading nature of the disease still poses a serious threat to the lives and livelihoods of our communities and is also a significant constraint to increasing livestock production in Ethiopia. However, the Tsetse fly Eradication Project (STEP), which is currently underway, has enabled us to make a notable progress to address this deadly cattle disease. As a result, quite substantial numbers of communities have been benefiting from the project through expansion of their farm land and livestock keeping. With the technical and financial assistance of the IAEA, Industrial Irradiator was also installed and inaugurated in July 2014.

With regard to the Programme of Action on Cancer Therapy (PACT), Ethiopia commends IAEA for its role and continued support in establishing comprehensive cancer control programmes at Black Lion Specialized Hospital which serves all referral patients from all over the country.
However, in view of the complex and challenging nature of cancer disease, we wish to request the continued cooperation of the Agency in establishing more radiotherapy and nuclear medicine services in other five university hospitals in Ethiopia.

On the other hand, the isotope hydrology laboratory, which is situated in the Addis Ababa University, is providing invaluable services to postgraduate students and the national isotopic research workers. The university has also been selected to host scientific visit and fellowship training to fellow Malawi and Lesotho candidates. Currently, the laboratory, however, is not yet in a position to carry out 13 and 14 Carbon analysis. We have thus sent samples to the IAEA and are waiting the result to be sent back home. Hence, we need the IAEA’s assistance to strengthen our national capacity by making available the required facilities to the laboratory.

Mr. President,

We firmly believe that provision of sufficient and predictable resources to the programs of the Agency and, more importantly, balanced distribution of resources to the safeguards, nuclear safety and technical cooperation activities of the Agency need to be ensured. The Technical Cooperation programme is in fact playing a crucial role as a means of nuclear technology transfer to the developing countries. Without sufficient and predictable financial resources, the Technical Cooperation Program can not achieve its objectives. Ethiopia therefore reiterates its call for increased resources from the Agency’s regular budget to cover the increasing burden
faced by the Technical Cooperation Department in implementing the Technical Cooperation Program.

We are also of the opinion that the Safeguards and Verification aspects of the Agency vividly illustrate the importance of the Agency’s continued vigilance and contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security. In a similar view, Ethiopia strongly supports the right of all States to have full use of nuclear technology and scientific application in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr. President,
We recognize that the development of new nuclear technology has immense benefits to promote social and development agenda by supporting national endeavors. It is in this context that Ethiopia values the role of IAEA in transferring and sharing of technology and experience as vital toward achieving socio-economic objectives and goals of developing countries such as Ethiopia. It is precisely for this and other reasons mentioned earlier that we will continue to look forward to further strengthen our cooperation with IAEA.

I thank you