

Statement by H.E. Dr. Fidelino Loy de Figueiredo Ambassador of Angola  
to Austria, Croatia and Slovenia and Permanent Representative of  
Angola to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of  
the United Nations General Assembly on the Agenda Item 81: Report of  
the International Atomic Energy Agency

New York 30 October 2006

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating you and your team on your election to the presidency of this sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. With your wide experience and diplomatic skills, you will no doubt steer this session to a successful conclusion.

In this context, I reassure you of the full support of my country during this event. Let me likewise convey my Government's congratulations to the International Atomic Energy Agency and to its Director General, Dr. Mohamed El Baradei on winning the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. Such an award is indeed a great recognition of their work and efforts to ensure the peaceful and safe use of nuclear energy.

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Angola greatly appreciates the Agency's decision that its share of the prize be used to create a special fund to support fellowships and training to improve cancer control and the use of stable isotope techniques in childhood nutritional studies in developing countries.

Mr. President,

We have carefully reviewed the Agency's Annual Report for 2005 contained in document GC (50)/4 and, in this regard, would like to express our appreciation for the activities carried out during that year under the three pillars of its mandate, namely, Technology, Safety and Verification.

The Angolan Government appreciates the Agency's endeavours in the development of Nuclear Applications and Technologies to the benefit of the developing countries, and strongly supports the strengthening of technical cooperation activities, in particular those related to the transfer of nuclear science and technology.

Mr. President,

My Government attaches a paramount importance to the technical cooperation (TC) programme of the Agency, as it is an effective contribution to the transfer of nuclear science and technology to Member States for building, strengthening and maintaining their capabilities for the use of nuclear technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner, and thereby contributing to socio-economic development. However, this

objective can only be reached with the availability of adequate human and financial resources. Accordingly, the resources of the Technical Cooperation Fund should be at sufficient level, predictable and assured to enable the implementation of the programme.

We express our appreciation to the Agency's activities in the areas such as agriculture and food, human health, human resources management, water resources management, environment, knowledge management, Sterile Insect Technique (SIT), nuclear security, etc. and in establishing partnerships with other international organisations as well as with national and regional institutions.

Mr. President,

As you are well aware, the tsetse fly and the trypanosomosis disease which it transmits are a major transboundary problem in Africa, and one of the greatest constraints to the continent's socio-economic development, affecting the health of humans and livestock, limiting land use and causing increased poverty. This disease claims ten of thousands of human lives and millions of livestock every year and threatens over 60 million people in 37 countries, most of which are Agency Members.

In this regard, the Republic of Angola supports the Agency's activities aimed at the eradication of the tsetse fly through the use of the Sterile Insect Technique and encourages the continued support to the African Member States in their efforts to build national capabilities and further develop the techniques for applying the SIT in creating tsetse-free zones. In the same vein, my country notes with great appreciation the Agency's

support to the African Union's Pan African Tse Tse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC), its contribution to the implementation of the AU-PATTEC Plan of Action in some countries of the continent, namely, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the contributions provided by some Member States and United Nations specialized Agencies in support of these efforts.

Mr. President,

With regard to malaria, the development of Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) for control and eradication of the mosquitoes (anopheles) is crucial. Over 90% of the world's malaria cases occur in Africa and cause about two million deaths yearly. The Agency should be able to intensify the research with a view to enabling the use of the SIT for the control and eradication of malaria transmitting mosquitoes, however, involving more and more African and other developing Member States scientific and research institutes in the research programme. In this context, we welcome the level of progress recorded in the development of SIT for the control and eradication of malaria transmitting mosquitoes and note with appreciation the important activities carried out in Sudan, in Île de la Réunion and at the Agency's laboratories at Seibersdorf (Austria).

Mr. President,

The increasing number of new cases of cancer and consequently the number of deaths it causes worldwide, particularly in developing countries, threatens the socio-economic development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), cancer is the second most common

killer in the world today, after the cardio-vascular disease. 12.5% of all deaths worldwide are currently caused by cancer. WHO predicts that cancer will reach epidemic proportions, increasing from 11 million new cases in 2002 to 16 million new cases by 2020. The largest increases are foreseen in developing countries.

The use of existing nuclear technology for diagnosis and treatment could cure many cases of cancer if detected early. Unfortunately, appropriate technologies, including cobalt radiotherapy, are not available for most cancer patients in developing countries.

We, therefore, note with appreciation that in May 2005 the World Health Assembly welcomed the initiative of the Agency in establishing the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and requested the Director General of WHO to explore the feasibility of initiating the development of a joint programme between WHO and IAEA for cancer prevention, control, treatment and research. In this regard, we commend the emphasis given to the cooperation between the two organizations involving other relevant United Nations bodies and other stakeholders, including scientific and professional organizations, for the implementation of this crucial programme.

In this regard, we encourage Member States, relevant organizations and other non-traditional donors to contribute to the implementation of the programme. In this context, the Angolan Government notes with appreciation the Board of Governors' decision on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006 to suspend the operation of Financial Regulation 7.03 (c) until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006, as contained in document GOV/2006/25/Rev2, in order to permit Member States to contribute with their respective individual

allocations of the final cash surplus from the 2004 regular budget towards the minimum funding requirement of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

With regard to Human Immune-deficiency Virus, Mr. President, this is now a pandemic with an estimated 38.6 million people now living with the disease worldwide. As of January 2006, the joint United Nations and the World Health Organization estimates that the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) has killed more than 25 million people since it was first recognized in 1981, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. Most of these deaths are occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa, retarding economic growth and eliminating human capital, consequently increasing poverty. The Angolan Government notes with appreciation the Agency's regional project entitled "Initiatives in HIV-Molecular Epidemiology and Immunology in Support of the UNAIDS-WHO African – AIDS Vaccine Programme" and encourages the exploration further possible partnerships with relevant national, regional and international institutions.

Regarding the management of water resources, Mr. President, the access to safe drinking water is a crucial factor in improving living standards around the world - a basic necessity that is still unavailable to a large part of the world's population. In this context, we welcome the proclaimed period 2005-2015 as an International Decade for Action, on "Water for Life" to bring about a greater focus on the critical linkage between water and human development at all levels, and to improve the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

Recognizing that the Agency has continuously demonstrated the importance of isotope techniques for water resources development and management, particularly for ground-water management in arid and semi-arid regions and for improved understanding of the water cycle, my country encourages the Organization to proceed along with other relevant United Nations agencies and regional bodies, to develop human resources in isotope hydrology and at regional training centres.

Mr. President,

Concerning the technical cooperation between the International Atomic Energy Agency and my Government, I would first of all like to stress that the Republic of Angola became member of the Agency in November 1999. Since then, my country benefits from the assistance provided by the Organization under the Technical Cooperation Programme. At present, the ongoing programme consists of four projects dealing with the “Establishment of the First Radiotherapy Centre”, “Upgrading the Capability for Using Nuclear Techniques for Diagnosis and Monitoring of Animal Diseases”, “Veterinary Drug Residue Monitoring”, and “Human Resources Development”. Angola has been also participating in several regional and interregional projects included in AFRA programs. In this connection, we wish to make special mention to the project entitled “Coastal Zone Management to Address the Adverse Effects of Harmful Algal Blooms” in which South Africa and Namibia are also participating.

Furthermore, my Government has submitted for the Agency’s consideration under 2007/2008 Technical Cooperation Programming Cycle ten project concepts dealing with the “Establishment of the First Nuclear Medicine Capability”, “Management of the Most Common

Cancers in Angola”, “Isotope-Based Molecular Techniques for Malaria Control”, “Assessment of Marine Pollution from Offshore Petroleum Exploration (Phase II)”, “Improvement of Food Crops through Mutation Breeding”, “Effect of Bio-Fertilizers and Inorganic Fertilizers in the Growth and Yield of Maize”, “Ionizing Radiation in Food Crops and Effect on Animal Consumption” and “Industrial Non-Destructive Testing”.

However, it is important to stress that the benefits from the Agency’s assistance can only be maximized if it includes the training of nationals in nuclear science and technology. This being the case, my Government thanks the Agency for all these most valuable actions taken under the TC Programme aimed at enhancing knowledge of our technicians, namely, the provision of training, expert’s advice and equipment as well as the participation in seminars, workshops, conferences, scientific visits, fellowships, etc..

Mr. President,

With regard to the application of the Agency’s safeguards in the Middle East, the Republic of Angola, in principle, supports the basic and inalienable right of State a Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), as stipulated in Article IV, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with their legal obligations as contained in Articles I and II. With the same conviction, my Government encourages all NPT States Parties to respect the statutory mandate of the Agency to verify compliance with the Treaty. Therefore, my country appeals to all Member States involved in negotiations with the Islamic

Republic of Iran on its nuclear programme to continue using the dialogue with a view to achieving a peaceful solution.

To conclude, Mr. President, the Republic of Angola has all reasons to recommend the approval of the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency by the UN General Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. President.