STATEMENT

BY

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AT

THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY

66TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK
22 SEPTEMBER 2011
Mr Chairman
Your Excellencies
Distinguished delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Mr. Chairman

At the outset I wish to commend you for convening this meeting on nuclear safety and security. It is indeed timely as it is taking place at the backdrop of the Fukushima incident. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to express once again our deepest sympathy to the Government and people of Japan for the loss of life and destruction brought upon by the earthquake and resulting tsunami.

In the same breath I wish to commend Japan for the resolute manner in which it has dealt with this calamity together with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We are confident that all efforts will be expended to assist Japan to get back to its pre-disaster state.
Mr. Chairman

Nuclear energy has a potential to play a vital and meaningful role in the social and economic development of our country. Namibia is endowed with abundant uranium resources and contributes a significant portion to the world uranium production. We are pleased that the IAEA has programmes in place to assist Member States to respond to the challenges that are associated with uranium mining, processing and nuclear power generation, especially with regard to policy and regulatory frameworks.

The Namibian government is committed to the exploitation of our uranium resources for the benefit of all our generations. We uphold the principle that Namibian uranium is only used for peaceful purposes, in line with the Treaty on Nuclear non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman

This high-level session is earmarked to deal with the challenges posed by the production and use of nuclear material. Namibia attaches great importance to nuclear safety and security.
We fully understand that it is a national responsibility to ensure that safety standards are in place for the use of nuclear material, radiation sources and operations. We, therefore, remain committed to the implementation of the IAEA's safety standards for use in our planned facilities. Experience has taught us the high price we would have to pay if things go wrong at nuclear facilities. This high level meeting serves to remind us of the risk that are involved and the possible ways of dealing with such risks.

Mr. Chairman

We view the United Nations system as the most viable platform to establish frameworks that will assist States to acquire reliable nuclear power technology while also attaining and maintaining the desirable level of safety and security. It is, therefore, appropriate that those who own technology should collaborate closely with the UN mandated bodies to ensure high levels nuclear safety.

In return the mandated bodies should work closely with States that wish to introduce nuclear power programmes to ensure that the technology is proven,
reliable and conforms to international standards. In our own quest, we will conduct our own thorough research before embarking on nuclear power development to ensure that the nuclear power design incorporates all safety features to effectively deal with the challenges of utilising this technology.

I am confident that the lessons learned and the outcome of this high-level meeting will enhance and strengthen the mechanism for maintaining nuclear safety and security worldwide.

I thank you.