

IAEA Staff Association Ball 2014

Speech of Staff Council President, Imed Zabaar

Good Evening, Everyone!

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you all tonight to the annual IAEA Staff Association Ball.

First of all, my compliments to all the ladies —you all look FANTASTIC!

It is really great to be amongst such beauty and elegance tonight!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is because of you, and your regular participation, that this Ball has become one of the most popular and most glamorous balls in Vienna, attracting over 3 000 guests each year.

Of course, this is also only possible through generous donations from our sponsors, especially the Moroccan National Tourist Office, whom I would like to thank for their support.

Tonight, we gather to dance and have fun, but also to support those in need.

As you may know, during the years, the IAEA Staff Association Ball supported many humanitarian national and international charity projects, such as:

- St. Anna Kinderspital;
- SOS Kinderdorf;
- Ute Bock;
- Médecins Sans Frontières; and
- Licht für die Welt.

We will of course continue our commitment to help where it is needed.

Also, our thanks go to:

Dr. Michael Häupl, the Mayor of Vienna,
Dr. Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General,
the Hofburg Management,
all the volunteers, musicians, artists, security officers,
catering service and photographers.





And in particular a big THANKS to the members of the Organizing Committee:

- Rahim Abdur;
- Tariq Afzal;
- Patricia de Leon;
- Kaseza Talengwa Lukumbuzya;
- Alexia Poriki;
- Pappachan Punnackal;
- Margaret Robertson; and
- Marielle Wynsford-Brown.

Who dedicated many hours of their own time to make this all happen.

And to, once again, have raised the bar so high that we can honestly say that this is now the best Ball in Vienna!

We also wish to sincerely thank Ms. Marielle Wynsford-Brown, the new Chair, for all her hard work - not only for the present and the past, but also for the years to come.

Thank you Ellie!

And last but not least, a big THANKS to our Honorary Chair, Mr. Rahim Abdur, who, as many of you know, served as Chair for 11 years and recently retired from the IAEA.

Rahim, to thank you for all your hard work and commitment during all these years, on behalf of the IAEA Staff Association, please accept this gift as a token of our appreciation.

Thank you Rahim!

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, enjoy the Ball.

Have fun, and see you later on the dance floor!

Thank you!