

Ministerial Declaration

28 November 2018

1. *We, the Ministers of the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), gathered at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges, remain committed to the Agency's objectives and functions, as outlined in its statute and the relevant resolutions of the General Conference.*
2. *We recognize* the important role of science, technology and innovation in addressing the current challenges and meeting the common goals of achieving sustainable development and protecting the environment in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. *We acknowledge* the contribution of, and potential for the applications of nuclear science and technology to meet a wide variety of basic socio-economic and human development needs; *we recognize* the progress made in all Member States in addressing such development needs and the benefits achieved from the application of nuclear techniques in both developing and developed States; *and we underscore* the growing need and demand for further utilization of nuclear applications worldwide.
4. *We emphasize* the importance of legal and regulatory frameworks, within the broader context of developing national nuclear infrastructure, for the safe, secure and sustainable use of the applications of nuclear science and technology for its operators and the public.
5. *We recognize* the importance of enhancing public understanding of the benefits brought about by nuclear science, technology and their applications.
6. *We acknowledge* the role of the IAEA in accelerating and enlarging the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity in Member States by facilitating their free access to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, the transfer of nuclear technology, the development of research, the application and utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in Member States and the promotion of bilateral and multilateral co-operation for that purpose; *and we highlight* the contribution the IAEA makes in the delivery and promotion of nuclear science and technology which, among other things, provides a tangible manifestation of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with relevant international treaties in force.
7. *We recognize* the role of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) programme as a major mechanism to support Member States in building, strengthening and maintaining their capacity to use nuclear technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner; *and we underscore* that the TC programme should align with Member State needs and be designed and delivered in a way to maximize synergies across the IAEA and utilize its resources efficiently and effectively.
8. *We encourage* all Member States to demonstrate their strong commitment and shared responsibility to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme; and, in this regard, *we emphasize* that pledging and payment of Technical Cooperation Fund shares by all Member States in full and on time would contribute to making resources available to meet the objectives mandated in the Statute.
9. *We acknowledge* the contribution of the IAEA's work in promoting the applications of nuclear science and technology in Member States, in such areas as energy, materials, industry, environment, food and agriculture, nutrition, human health and water resources, thus improving the quality of life.

10. *We recognize* the importance of the IAEA's work in nuclear power applications, non-power applications of nuclear science and technology as well as in nuclear safety to monitor environmental changes to the ecosystems and to assist Member States, in accordance with their national priorities, in adapting to climate change impacts and in mitigating climate change as a global challenge.
11. *We recognize* the need to attract more women into the field of nuclear sciences; *we encourage* the IAEA to continue its support for the participation of women and to strive for equal opportunities for both men and women in the implementation of its activities; *and we urge* the IAEA to take into account gender-related impacts and benefits.
12. *We emphasize* the valuable contribution made by the IAEA to foster capabilities on basic nuclear science in Member States.
13. *We recognize* the need for a strong knowledge foundation to enable research and development, and evidence based public policy making, and to cater to the specific needs of Member States to achieve socio-economic development; *we urge* the IAEA to identify the challenges in this regard, and to continue the promotion of collaboration at different levels among interested Member States in research and development on the beneficial uses of nuclear energy and nuclear sciences through coordinated research projects, networks and communities of practice, and to further promote and support capacity building to enable better use of nuclear technology in Member States.
14. *We underline* the importance of the IAEA's Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, and in Monaco, in developing and refining relevant nuclear techniques and in delivering them to Member States; *we welcome* in particular the progress of the ReNuAL and ReNuAL + projects aimed at modernizing the Nuclear Applications Laboratories.
15. *We recognize* the IAEA's success at establishing traditional and non-traditional partnerships and expect further efforts from the IAEA to improve partnerships with relevant partners and donors, including regional and multilateral organizations, as well as development agencies and other entities, and *we call upon* the IAEA to support Member States in their efforts to work together, on an interdisciplinary basis, with relevant partners, including academia, the private sector as well as international, regional and national development agencies, with the aim of bringing the results of research and development relating to the applications of nuclear science and technology to the end-users, upscaling successful Technical Cooperation projects, and creating sustainability and socio-economic impact.
16. *We express* commitment to work together to bridge the gaps in the field of nuclear science and technology and applications among the Member States, and promote further the applications of nuclear science and technology, thereby meeting national development priorities of each Member State and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
17. *We request* the Secretariat, in close consultation with Member States, to organise a follow-up to this Ministerial Conference in the coming years.