

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

IAEA Ministerial Conference on
Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and
the Technical Cooperation Programme

November 2024, Vienna, Austria



Ministerial Declaration

26 November 2024

1. We, the Ministers of the Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), gathered at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, remain committed to the IAEA's objectives and functions, as outlined in its Statute and the relevant resolutions of the General Conference.
2. We recognize the important role of nuclear science, technology, and applications in addressing the current and evolving challenges and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and emphasize the necessity to bridge the nuclear science, technology and applications gap among Member States for peaceful purposes, while stressing the IAEA's central role in enhancing international cooperation in this regard.
3. We acknowledge the contribution of, and the potential for nuclear science, technology and applications, to meet a wide variety of social, economic and human development needs; we recognize the progress and achievements made in Member States in addressing such needs; we emphasize the importance of an open and fair environment for research and scientific development collaboration at the regional and international level among interested Member States in the fields of nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful purposes.
4. We stress the role of the IAEA, in accordance with its Statute, 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, technology and applications which, among other things, provides a tangible manifestation of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in line with relevant international treaties in force.
5. We stress the role of the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme as a major mechanism in transferring, expanding and further accelerating access to nuclear technology, materials, equipment and expertise to Member States for peaceful purposes and supporting them in building, strengthening and maintaining their capacity to use nuclear technology in a safe, secure and sustainable manner with due consideration to developing countries; and we underscore that the Technical Cooperation Programme should align with Member States' needs and priorities, and note the usefulness of Country Programme Framework as a planning tool, where applicable.
6. We underscore the growing need and demand for further utilization and upscaling of nuclear applications worldwide for peaceful purposes, and in this regard, we are committed to further support the Technical Cooperation Programme to meet the objectives of the Statute and the needs and priorities of Member States, in particular developing countries, with a view to harnessing nuclear science, technology and applications in all the fields of activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme, including in the following clusters: health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water and the environment, industrial applications, radiation technology, safety and security, energy planning and nuclear power, nuclear knowledge development and management.
7. We emphasize the importance of governmental, legal and regulatory frameworks, in accordance with respective obligations of Member States within the broader context of developing national nuclear infrastructure, for the safe, secure, and sustainable use of applications of nuclear science and technology by Member States.
8. We recognize the importance of enhancing public awareness and understanding of the benefits brought about by nuclear science, technology, and applications.

9. We emphasize the valuable contribution made by the IAEA to foster capabilities in nuclear science in Member States and we recognize the need for a strong knowledge foundation to enable research and development in nuclear science, technology and applications, and evidence based public policy making, and to cater to the specific needs of Member States to harness benefits of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to contribute to sustainable development; we urge the IAEA to continue supporting Member States to address emerging needs and identify opportunities in this regard, and promote collaboration at different levels among interested Member States in research and development on nuclear science, technology and applications through coordinated research projects, collaborating centres, scientific networks and communities of practice, and to further promote and support capacity building to enable better use of nuclear technology in Member States, particularly in developing countries.
10. We acknowledge the important role of the regional and cooperative agreements, under the auspices of the IAEA, namely AFRA, ARASIA, ARCAL, and RCA, in the effective implementation of their respective Technical Cooperation projects and in this context, we encourage the continued enhancement of these collaborative efforts and, furthermore, we welcome the celebration of the 40th anniversary of ARCAL this year and look forward to the 35th anniversary of AFRA (2025) which alongside with the 20th anniversary of ARASIA (2022), and the 50th anniversary of the RCA (2022), underscores the IAEA's enduring commitment to regional technical cooperation.
11. We encourage all Member States to demonstrate their strong commitment and shared responsibility to the Technical Cooperation Programme; and, in this regard, we emphasize that pledging and payment of the shares to the Technical Cooperation Fund by all Member States in full and on time would contribute meeting the objectives mandated in the Statute.
12. We commit to make every effort and take practical steps to ensure that the resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme activities are sufficient, assured and predictable while recognizing the role of the Secretariat in this regard; we appreciate extra budgetary and in kind contributions from Member States, and we call upon Member States who are in a position to do so, to further provide extra budgetary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Programme and other IAEA activities in nuclear science, technology and applications, including through the Peaceful Uses Initiative, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries and we recognize that unearmarked contributions offer additional flexibility to the IAEA.
13. We acknowledge the contribution of the IAEA's work in promoting nuclear science, technology and applications and the transfer of technology and expertise and recognize the important role of flagship initiatives that help to increase visibility of the IAEA's work, mobilize additional resources, and focus the IAEA activities on numerous important areas:
 - Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC)
 - Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics)
 - Rays of Hope
 - Atoms4Food
 - Atoms4NetZero
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 ReNuAL initiative that contributed significantly to equipping the IAEA with up to date nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf, able to address the current and future needs in Member States through applied research and development; we also note the IAEA's work in providing technical support to Member States upon request in the event of natural disasters, including through the Non-Destructive Testing Service Centre in Seibersdorf.
15. We recognize the work of the IAEA in promoting the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology for industrial, health care and environmental applications, including in the area of preserving cultural heritage.

16. We recognize the IAEA's success in 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.
17. We note with appreciation the work of the Agency to assist analytical laboratories and research facilities in Member States and recognize the important role of laboratory networks in promoting research and development activities on nuclear science such as:
 - Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity (ALMERA) Network
 - Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) Network
 - Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VETLAB) Network
18. 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.
19. 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; we recognize the progress of the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the Lise Meitner Programme with the objective to encourage women to pursue a professional career in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear sciences and technology and non-proliferation, and to provide early- and mid-career women professionals with opportunities to advance their technical and relevant soft skills respectively.
20. We recognize the critical need to foster the next generation of nuclear scientists, engineers, and professionals, and we call for strengthened international cooperation and initiatives to support education, training, and capacity building, ensuring that young professionals from all Member States, especially developing countries, have access to the knowledge and opportunities needed to develop expertise in nuclear science, technology, and applications.
21. We note with appreciation the efforts of the IAEA in promoting partnerships throughout the UN family, inter alia FAO, WHO, UNEP, UN Water, and resource mobilization to advance priorities of Member States.
22. We encourage the Secretariat to further strengthen cooperation and support for nuclear science, technology, and applications, to maximize the outcome of research and development, particularly for the benefits of developing countries and leveraging financial solutions from traditional and non-traditional partners and donors to bridge the funding gap in Technical Cooperation activities.
23. We request the Secretariat to organize the Ministerial Conference every four years and encourage Member States to actively participate in these Conferences at high level.