

# Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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### Nuclear science for sustainable development

**Joint statement by Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America**

1. Our countries share a deep commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its three mutually reinforcing pillars of disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Each of these three pillars benefits all Non-Proliferation Treaty States parties, and all States parties can contribute to each. In that context, we wish to emphasize the Treaty's essential role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology ("peaceful uses") and our commitment to realize its potential to promote sustainable global development.
2. Consistent with this commitment, we emphasize the importance of and need for sustained, high-level, political attention and engagement in activities that advance peaceful uses, and to drive the associated benefits to those most in need and where insufficient resources, lack of capacity and other barriers to accessing the benefits of peaceful uses as envisioned in article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty are greatest.
3. We emphasize the important role of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in supporting the inalienable right of all the parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II, III and IV of the Treaty.
4. We believe that the Non-Proliferation Treaty fosters the development of peaceful uses by providing a framework of confidence and cooperation that facilitates "the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials and scientific and technological information" for peaceful uses.
5. Since the Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force in 1970, the range of nuclear and nuclear-related science and technology applications that can contribute to addressing global challenges and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has grown significantly, and cooperation in these areas is expanding.



6. We recognize in this regard that the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in assisting its member States in applying peaceful uses is also growing, particularly in areas related to assuring food safety and security, managing water resources, improving human and animal health, preserving cultural heritage, optimizing industrial processes, meeting energy needs and helping to monitor the impacts of climate change and mitigate and adapt to its consequences.

7. We also note the commitment by IAEA and its Director General to advance these efforts through flagship initiatives that aim to expand access to peaceful uses among developing countries in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- Rays of Hope, which seeks to address the unacceptable inequity in access to cancer care by planning and implementing a sustainable strategy for national cancer control in countries with little or no infrastructure or facilities to provide cancer care to their citizens
- Joint efforts by IAEA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) under the new initiative Atoms4Food to advance the application of nuclear science and technology to a critical challenge facing the world today – food security
- IAEA initiatives in zoonotic disease outbreak preparedness and response (ZODIAC) and marine plastic pollution solutions (NUTEC Plastics), as well as activities under the Atoms4NetZero project, that strengthen the connection between peaceful uses and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

8. These transformational programmes make an important start but require additional resources to carry forward. Noting the success of the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative, launched by IAEA following the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010, in creating a valuable and flexible resource for high-priority IAEA peaceful uses activities based on voluntary contributions from IAEA member States, we intend to continue to explore ways to identify new resources for the life-saving work of IAEA and as a demonstration of our commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

9. In this regard, we encourage new efforts to strengthen engagement with a wider range of development and donor institutions to amplify work in these areas, including in the context of the IAEA 2024 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. We encourage active, high-level participation of IAEA member States in the 2024 Ministerial Conference.

10. Also in this vein, we support the continued efforts by member States to deepen engagement with the broad community of experts, including Atoms for Heritage, Neutrons4NA, the Framework for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation and the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology.

11. We recognize that there are still many challenges to fully realizing the potential of peaceful uses, and we reaffirm our commitment to working cooperatively to address these challenges, including:

- Promoting nuclear science and technology in education and training programmes, including through their inclusion in school curricula at the primary and secondary levels, to introduce the benefits and potential of nuclear science and technology to youth and to support workforce development

- Building sufficient institutional capacities and regulatory capabilities for the safe and secure operation of equipment for the safety of workers, patients and the public
- Encouraging broader integration of peaceful uses into national and global strategies for achieving sustainable development by involving a wide variety of stakeholders in peaceful uses planning and implementation, including government and international development agencies, non-governmental organizations, medical and research communities, universities, nuclear regulators and operators, and industry
- Highlighting the contribution of and encouraging regional frameworks for cooperation and capacity-building to promote the exchange of operational experience and technical know-how as well as best practices in nuclear safety and nuclear security, to include, for example, global learning centres, regional centres of excellence, regional anchor centres, nuclear-weapon-free zone organizations and other cognizant regional organizations
- Promoting broader access by least developed countries to the benefits of peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology, by addressing the obstacles to their full participation in the IAEA technical cooperation programme, including through the provision of expertise to identify needs and available resources and support for the scalable development of their regulatory safety and security frameworks

12. We reiterate the importance of continuing cooperation to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of peaceful uses to achieving the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and emphasize the participation of recipient countries in driving cooperation and assistance to meet national development goals.

13. We encourage all Non-Proliferation Treaty States parties to continue to work in close partnership with IAEA, its member States, United Nations agencies, research institutes, international financial institutions, industry and civil society to continue to advance the contribution of nuclear science and technology within the broader framework of the international development agenda.

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