

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

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Update on the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses to Support Enhanced Cooperation as Envisioned under Article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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1. This paper provides an update on the progress of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses of nuclear energy, science, and technology, launched at the tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in August 2022 and for which the intentions were initially summarized in document [NPT/CONF.2020/WP.46](#).
2. During the first year of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, documented in [NPT/CONF.2026/PC.I/WP.29](#), participants initiated an ambitious programme of activities to showcase how the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, science and technology can complement other assistance initiatives to help States parties achieve their most pressing development goals.
3. The Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses has since expanded its engagement to stakeholders from new geographic regions and areas of work. We have continued to engage increasingly diverse stakeholders to highlight where peaceful uses can advance our global pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses

4. The Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses initiative aims to increase awareness of, improve access to and promote acceptance of the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Through commitments made by States parties under article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses further



demonstrates the essential role played by the Treaty in facilitating the development of peaceful uses. By providing a framework of confidence and cooperation, the Treaty enables States to derive benefits from peaceful uses in a safe, secure and safeguarded manner in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays an important role in facilitating Member State access to nuclear technology applications for peaceful purposes. All collaborations under the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses aim to complement and amplify the efforts of the IAEA by uplifting flagship initiatives and broadening the impact of programmes, including the Rays of Hope initiative, the Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative, the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), the Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) network, and the Atoms4Food initiative.

6. Civilian Research and Development Foundation Global (CRDF Global), as the implementing partner of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, is empowering a diverse set of stakeholders, including scientists, policymakers, the development community and the private sector, by facilitating non-binding and voluntary discussions to promote the peaceful applications of nuclear science and advance progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. CRDF Global maintains the virtual portal of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, which allows people to follow the work of the programme. The Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses is developing a network of champions and would welcome further involvement by States parties and experts, who can get in touch through the website, accessible at www.sustaineddialogue.com.

Programme of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses

7. In its first year, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses focused on promoting peaceful uses of nuclear science to advance water security in the Middle East and North Africa, improve medical outcomes by increasing access to nuclear medicine in West Africa, and address food security in response to climate change. Building upon that foundation, the initiative continues to engage with new expert communities across South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands, Latin America and Africa to enhance responses to urgent and emerging development challenges.

8. The engagement has been crucial in identifying critical challenges to expanding access to nuclear technology for peaceful uses, including insufficient cross-sectoral training and workforce development, project sustainability and longevity, and lack of awareness of the role of nuclear technology in supporting tackling food insecurity and water shortages. It has also identified new opportunities for cooperation, with the potential for tangible benefits to States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Food security and climate-smart agriculture

9. **Reducing food loss and waste in Nepal.** In January 2024, the Nepal Development Research Institute, with support from the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses, hosted a consultation in Nepal to explore the potential application of ionizing technology for reducing post-harvest loss of crops with the aim of improving food security and identifying avenues for facilitating exports. The consultation involved experts from government organizations, research institutes and the private sector, including United States universities and the United States Agency for International Development. The event launched a feasibility study to inform the decision of Nepal regarding embarking on constructing a radiation facility.

10. **Sustainable agriculture in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.** CRDF Global, in collaboration with the International Joint Research Center on Food Security, hosted a regional workshop in July 2024 in Thailand on challenges to

food safety and security in South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands. Discussions explored the role of nuclear science throughout all aspects of food systems, from food production and processing to public policy and outreach.

11. **Food security in Latin America.** In partnership with the Comisión Nacional de Energía Atómica de Paraguay, CRDF Global hosted a workshop in Asunción, in July 2024 to explore local and regional models and best practices for improving access and awareness of the role of nuclear technology in enhancing food security and safety in Latin America.

12. **Better crops in the face of climate change in Africa.** In support of the IAEA Atoms4Food initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, CRDF Global held a virtual webinar in May 2024 to highlight the role of plant breeding techniques and radiation-based mutagenesis in creating more climate-resilient indigenous crop varieties in Africa.

Access to nuclear medicine and cancer care

13. **Refining promising ideas at the African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer.** CRDF Global supported the Ministry of Health of Ghana and experts from Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in holding a round-table forum at the African Organization on Research and Training in Cancer conference in November 2023 in Dakar. The event refined ideas introduced at the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses workshop held in June 2023 in Ghana, on equipment maintenance, patient experience, and public education and outreach.

14. **Trilateral cooperation for rural cancer care in Nigeria.** In February 2024, CRDF Global convened experts from Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and IAEA in Abuja to discuss how to improve access to cancer care for rural populations in West Africa. Areas identified included improving provider and public education through collaboration with faith-based organizations and raising awareness of available educational opportunities available for cancer and primary care physicians to train in cancer care.

15. In addition to convening stakeholders, CRDF Global has also supported the engagement of experts in key global forums. In October 2023, CRDF Global gave a plenary presentation at the World Institute for Nuclear Security round-table event on the nexus between nuclear security and radiotherapy in lower-and middle-income countries. In November 2023, CRDF Global supported an expert from the Ghana workshop series in participating in the London Global Cancer Week.

Water security and the environment

16. **Monitoring water resources in Africa.** Following the Sustainable Dialogue on Peaceful Uses workshop on water security in Jordan in 2023, CRDF Global has partnered with the National Centre for Energy and Nuclear Science and Technology (CNESTEN) of Morocco and is planning a regional workshop on monitoring groundwater resources with isotope hydrology in Africa, to be held in Rabat. The workshop will aim to uplift the IAEA GloWAL network and explore essential aspects of data collection and management for water resources across the continent.

Power and non-power applications

17. **Small modular reactors in Africa.** In April 2024, CRDF Global partnered with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, the Dalberg International development group and Wilton Park to host a regional workshop on the potential applications of advanced and small modular reactors in Africa. In addition to hosting discussions on critical steps to adopting small modular reactors for clean electricity

production, the workshop featured broad discussion on both the power and non-power applications of reactors for energy-intensive industries including desalination, clean hydrogen production and radioisotope manufacturing.

Future of the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses

18. The Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses will continue to emphasize the role of peaceful uses in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, while also highlighting the indispensable role of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in increasing access to nuclear technologies. The diverse collaborative partnerships forged under the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses during the past two years have been the programme's most valuable resource in shaping the initiative from its beginning.

19. We remain committed to growing further partnerships. The diverse perspectives of participating experts are instrumental in identifying barriers to access in applying nuclear techniques for addressing the needs of States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, especially in regions with the greatest needs but fewest resources.

20. We anticipate increased participation in the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses from government ministries, regulatory and technical agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and regional institutions, in order to offer a multitude of perspectives in the conversation. We encourage those groups to help identify stakeholders, promoting understanding and acceptance of the full range of peaceful nuclear applications and connecting, identifying and promoting opportunities for matchmaking stakeholders for new projects.

21. Expert-level engagement must be accompanied by sustained, high-level and political attention in specific activities that advance peaceful uses to drive tangible benefits, meaning that by joining with relevant ministries and other stakeholders, we can ensure that nuclear technologies are an accessible part of a country's toolkit for addressing development needs.

Conclusion

22. Through continued and sustained engagement of a broad set of stakeholders, the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses is furthering the conversation on peaceful uses and helping States parties expand their access to the benefits of those technologies, as envisioned under article IV of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

23. The Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses remains committed to fostering international cooperation and addressing development challenges by leveraging the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology.

24. We welcome the present session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as an opportunity to reflect on our progress and solicit further input from States parties. Additional insights will allow the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses to continue drawing attention to unmet global, regional and national development requirements that could be addressed by nuclear applications. Those efforts will contribute to advancing our shared dedication to sustainable development in pursuit of attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
