

**IAEA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY: ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING
DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES
STARTING 28 NOVEMBER 2018**

STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE

Mr/Madam co-Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Nuclear technology plays a much bigger role in our daily lives than most people realise.

Identifying structural defects in buildings, the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, protecting crops, combating climate change and water treatment are just some of the many applications of nuclear and radiation technology.

The IAEA's motto is Atoms for Peace and Development.

Since its establishment in 1957, transferring nuclear technology to developing countries has been a core function of the Agency.

But it is probably one of the most underappreciated aspects of the Agency's work to the wider public.

My delegation therefore commends IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano for his vision and leadership in organising this timely and important first ever Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology.

We endorse the Ministerial Statement declaration adopted on 28 November and hope that this conference will help the IAEA better explain to the public how it can assist member states, in particular developing countries and LDCs, achieve 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals under the Agency's mandate.

Mr/Madam co-Chair,

Singapore is a strong supporter of the IAEA's key role in promoting nuclear science, technology, and applications in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner.

Singapore had benefitted from the IAEA's assistance towards our development in areas such as cancer control and food safety since we became a member of the IAEA in 1967, shortly after our independence in 1965.

We therefore consistently support the IAEA's efforts to transfer knowledge and expertise through its Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme to help countries build their own expertise and to train future generations of nuclear specialists to exploit nuclear science and technology.

This is done primarily through the Singapore-IAEA Third Country Training Programme (TCTP).

We have hosted training fellowships and scientific visits, and jointly organised several regional workshops with the IAEA on nuclear science and technology under the TCTP.

Some recent initiatives include a Food Safety Analytical Instrumentation Workshop hosted by our Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) in March 2017; a Regional Training Course on Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy organised by Singapore's National Cancer Centre in 2017; and a Workshop on the Sterile and Incompatibility Insect Techniques for Mosquito Control hosted by our National Environment Agency (NEA) in June 2018.

Beyond the Singapore-IAEA TCTP, the Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and the IAEA concluded Practical Arrangements in 2017 to provide more targeted education and training for professionals in nuclear medicine from IAEA Member States.

To date, the SGH has organised one training workshop and hosted 11 fellowships under the Practical Arrangements.

SGH will continue to host IAEA fellows and will be organising the Final Review Meeting and Workshop on Nuclear Medicine Techniques for Dementia in the coming months.

Mr/Madam co-Chair,

Many speakers before me had underscored the importance of partnerships in ensuring that developing countries benefit from nuclear science and technology.

We therefore applaud the IAEA's efforts to forge more collaborative partnerships with other UN entities such as WHO, UNIDO, and FAO to provide better solutions to emerging challenges such as combating non-communicable diseases, improving food security and managing the effects of climate change.

We also encourage the IAEA and its nuclear applications laboratories to strengthen its existing partnerships and to forge new partnerships – including with regional

organisations and the private sector – to better understand and meet the evolving development needs of member states, in particular developing countries and LDCs.

Singapore is Chair of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies in Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) this year.

During our chairmanship, we initiated discussions on the ASEAN-IAEA Practical Arrangements to promote cooperation in a range of nuclear-related activities, including nuclear safety, security and safeguards, as well as nuclear science, technology and applications.

We look forward to the swift conclusion of these discussions and the signing of the Practical Arrangements as soon as possible.

Mr/Madam co-Chair,

The Director-General, heads of UN agencies and many delegations had shared many useful insights and ideas on how nuclear science and technology can better help overcome current and emerging challenges confronting nations to improve the quality of life of our citizens over the past few days.

My delegation therefore hopes that this will not be last Ministerial Conference on nuclear science and technology.

We are confident that the insights and ideas gleaned from such high level conferences will contribute to the IAEA's important work in helping Member States' pursue the peaceful uses of nuclear science and applications in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr/Madam co-Chair.

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