

(Translation for the benefit of interpreters)

Statement at The IAEA's Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme

By Huang Ping, Secretary General of China Atomic Energy Authority

Distinguished Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General Qu Dongyu, Co-Chairs Kai Mykkänen and Kwaku Afriyie, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to represent the Chinese delegation at the prestigious Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. On behalf of the China Atomic Energy Authority, I extend my sincere congratulations for the successful convening of this Conference.

China, as the world's largest developing country, is vigorously promoting Chinese-style modernization with a focus on high-quality development. It has prioritized the innovative development of nuclear power and nuclear technology as a key strategy to address climate change challenges, promote economic and social progress, and enhance public welfare. China currently operates 56 nuclear power units and has 46 more units approved and under construction. Significant progress has been made in the research, development, and application of nuclear energy for purposes such as clean heating, industrial heating, and seawater desalination.

China's radiation mutation technology has led to the breeding of improved crop varieties that account for one-third of the world's total. The country's annual radiation processing of food and agricultural products accounts for more than two-thirds of the world's total. China

has also achieved self-sufficiency in the supply of cobalt-60 isotopes and medical cyclotrons. Domestically developed equipment for heavy ion radiotherapy has been put into trial clinical use.

Furthermore, technologies such as radiometry and elemental analysis have been extensively applied in environmental monitoring and remediation. The use of electron beam radiation to treat wastewater and waste residues from industries such as dyeing, medical treatment, and chemical processing has been industrialized in China.

Recently, the Chinese government launched the 'Three-Year Action Plan for the High-Quality Development of Industrial Applications of Nuclear Technology'. This plan outlines policy measures to promote policy alignment, improve regulatory framework and strengthen industrial capacity. It emphasizes accelerating the construction of isotope production reactors, optimizing and modernizing existing research reactors and expanding isotope production capacity.

The plan also advocates increased efforts in basic, original and prospective research, in particular in the development of novel pharmaceuticals, innovative radiotherapy technologies and advanced equipment. It emphasizes the importance of expanding the application of nuclear technologies in sectors such as industry, agriculture, healthcare and public security. It also promotes the integration of nuclear technologies into modern industrial systems such as biotechnology, advanced materials, high-end manufacturing and environmentally friendly technologies. The overall goal is to use nuclear technology to improve and enrich the quality of human life.

Distinguished co-chairs,

This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's accession to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Over these four

decades, China has actively participated in and supported the IAEA's Technical Cooperation programme, becoming both a major beneficiary and a major contributor. Since 2020, China has been the second largest contributor to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Fund.

In line with Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi's flagship initiatives such as 'Atoms for Net Zero', 'Rays of Hope' and 'Atoms for Food', China has provided a wide range of public goods and services to developing countries. We have supported the basic capacity building of nuclear newcomers through the International Construction Training Centre on NPP, established with the IAEA. This centre facilitates the exchange of experience and talent cultivation for the development and deployment of small modular reactors in developing countries.

We also supported the development of health care in Africa by successfully completing the first training course for radiotherapy physicists, in collaboration with the IAEA. Together with the IAEA, we have established eight collaborating centres in China focusing on nuclear agronomy, nuclear medicine, nuclear safety and nuclear security. We have also made 12 nuclear research facilities and experimental platforms access to countries in the global South and beyond.

Through the China Atomic Energy Scholarship Programme, we offer 100 scholarships each year to students from the global South for master's and doctoral studies in nuclear fields. We urge nations in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Agency's Technical Cooperation and to provide greater support and assistance to the global South in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thereby promoting modernization and sustainable development.

Distinguished co-chairs,

Guided by the concept of a community with a shared future for humankind, China stands ready to work with the IAEA and other parties to advance the development and application of nuclear technology. We are committed to making significant contributions to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you !