

## Statement by Norway

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, Vienna, 26-28 November 2024

Statement for the general debate, delivered by State Secretary Bjørg Sandkjær, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo.

Co-Chairs,

Ministers,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank our co-chairs from Ghana and Finland and the IAEA Secretariat for organizing this timely conference.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an essential part of the non-proliferation regime, founded on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We welcome the IAEA activities that help improve human health, agriculture, food security and water resources management, combat environmental and water pollution.

This Ministerial Conference highlights the relevance and impact of nuclear technologies. It provides an opportunity to raise further awareness of these issues.

We commend the Agency's important role in assisting Member States to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through nuclear science, technology and applications under the highest possible safety, security, and non-proliferation conditions.

As a strong supporter of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, Norway welcomes the success of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and the Lise Meitner Programme. We also commend the Agency for its efforts to include more women both in the secretariat and in nuclear-related industries. It is important that these efforts continue.

We support the IAEA's commitment to tackling climate change, including its participation in the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is a priority for Norway, and we welcome the IAEA's contributions.

Norway welcomes the newly established "Group of Friends of Food Security" here in Vienna, of which we are a part. Fighting hunger and increasing global food security is on top of our agenda. I very much welcome agriculture and food security as overarching themes for this conference.

We are also pleased to be part of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, developed under Brazil's leadership at the G20 recently, but already including 82 countries and international organisations.

Co-Chairs,

The IAEA's support and assistance missions in Ukraine provide crucial information and assessments to the international community. We commend their efforts as well as the hard work of the Ukrainian personnel under extreme conditions. We fully support the Agency's seven pillars for nuclear safety and security and the five principles for the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

Norway has worked closely with Ukrainian authorities on nuclear safety and security for many years. Since the 2022 invasion we have increased our support. Through the Norwegian Nansen Support Program, Norway has allocated approximately 30 million euro to nuclear safety and security projects in Ukraine, including 9 million euro to the IAEA mission.

Co-Chairs,

Nuclear technologies play a pivotal role in addressing the world's energy, health and agricultural needs, for the benefit of all people. It is because of all these efforts that Norway is a strong and committed supporter of the Agency's work. We remain committed to consistently provide our assessed voluntary contribution to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, in full and on time. We encourage all member states to do the same. Through this fund, the Agency assists in the delivery of expertise, the exchange of equipment and transfer of technology.

Peaceful use of nuclear energy goes hand in hand with nuclear safety and security. This commitment contributes to building the public trust and confidence that is essential to broaden the successful use of nuclear applications worldwide.

We welcome the Ministerial Declaration, and the fact that it obtained consensus. This proves the dedication of all member states. I thank the Co-Chairs for their hard work and dedication in this regard.

Thank you.