

SWEDEN

**Statement
by
Ambassador
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**International Atomic Energy Agency
Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology**

**26-29 November 2024
Vienna**

Director General, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I wish to make the following national remarks.

The current state of our globe paints a gloomy picture; instability and conflict are increasingly fueled by climate change, and by lack of food or lack of water. It is therefore more important than ever to use all the tools in mankind's toolbox, to address our shared global challenges and to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Nuclear science, technology and applications are examples of such tools.

Nuclear science and technology, transmitted through the IAEA, has a significant role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with its mandate, the Agency carries out the important work of disseminating benefits of nuclear science and technology by promoting research and capacity-building. It helps Member States apply nuclear science, technology and innovation to address important development priorities. This work also constitutes a tangible contribution to Article IV of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, adding to the Agency's important role as a partner in both peace and development.

In Sweden's view, nuclear science and technology is of special importance as it offers humanity a glimpse of hope in a dire situation of escalating climate change. We must now pace up the expansion of nuclear power globally to achieve the climate goals. This Conference

provides an excellent occasion for dialogue regarding IAEA's research and development capabilities, its Technical Cooperation Programme, and how various stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, can work together to further our common goals.

We echo the need for all Technical Cooperation Programme activities to be needs-based, demand-driven and in coordination with other UN bodies. The prevalent use of Country Programme Frameworks, in line with national development plans and priorities, is helpful in this regard.

Colleagues,

We welcome further progress towards gender equality at the IAEA, and encourage the Agency to continue promoting gender mainstreaming into all its policies and organizational practices. Sweden has been a proud contributor to the IAEA's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, in support of young Ukrainian women to pursue a career in the nuclear field.

Sweden fully supports the Agency's work to enlarge the contribution of nuclear science and technology to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. And we stand ready to do our part to make it happen. Since the last conference in 2018 Sweden has provided extrabudgetary contributions through the Peaceful Uses Initiative to the Rays of Hope programme to help combat women's cancer as well as to the NUTEC Plastic programme. Sweden is looking forward to working actively with the newly established Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna.

Colleagues,

The Ministerial Declaration adopted by consensus earlier today, negotiated under the able stewardship of Finland and Ghana, reflects the commitment by the entire membership to the vital importance of the topics at hand.

We must all redouble our efforts for the successful implementation of Agenda 2030. I once again thank the Agency for arranging this conference which highlights one important piece of the puzzle.

I thank you for your attention and wish all participants a successful conference.