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**IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications
and the Technical Cooperation Programme**

26 – 28 November 2024

Statement by

Mr Benoît Revaz

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Switzerland**

Vienna, 26 November 2024

Co-Chairs,
Director General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are gathered here today to send a clear, ambitious and forward-looking message to the international community on the great potential of nuclear science, technologies, applications and the technical cooperation for sustainable, global development. Switzerland welcomes the activities of the IAEA aimed at the further development of these areas and its role as a global coordinator in this field. We support strengthening the role of the IAEA in this context. These activities of the IAEA are also in alignment with Switzerland's objectives regarding the implementation of the international sustainable development agenda. Furthermore, we consider the promotion of nuclear science and technology to be a concrete manifestation of peaceful nuclear cooperation as enshrined in the NPT.

One of the main results of this Conference will be the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration. This is a success and a strong signal for multilateralism and science diplomacy considering the challenging times. I would like to congratulate and thank Ghana and Finland as co-chairs for their excellent work to achieve this outcome.

Let me highlight the following points to which Switzerland is particularly committed:

Since its adoption in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been the guiding framework for Switzerland's commitment to sustainable development at the national and international level. It underpins the commitment of my country to environmentally and socially

responsible economic development within planetary borders, as well as to peace and compliance with international law and human rights. From the outset, Switzerland played a key role in drawing up the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Switzerland fully recognizes the great potential of the applications of nuclear science and technology and the importance of the role of the IAEA in this area for the achievement of the SDGs contained in the 2030 Agenda.

Co-Chairs,

Switzerland wishes to highlight and underscore the importance of the research cooperation between the IAEA and its member states, and among the member states themselves. This includes strengthening the IAEA's collaboration centres. Spiez Laboratory was designated as a collaboration centre for accredited radioanalytics and as a laboratory for nuclear forensics in 2017 and is seeking a second re-designation from 2025 onwards. The École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) has also been operating as a collaboration center in the field of nuclear energy research since 2019, thus making a significant contribution to national and international safety standards. This collaboration has been ongoing since last year following an initial redesignation. And since 2018, Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, has been conducting basic research in the field of isotope hydrology using data from the isotope tritium to gain a deeper understanding of global groundwater. These results were recognized in 2022 with a so-called 'practical arrangement'. A practical arrangement is the basis for long-term cooperation with the IAEA.

The IAEA's Technical Cooperation (TC) programme is a central vehicle for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and it therefore plays a vital role in the implementation of Article IV of the NPT and the achievement of the SDGs. As a strong supporter of the TC programme, Switzerland consistently pays its shares in full and on time, and we urge all Member States to do the same as part of our shared responsibility.

Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, let me underline Switzerland's firm hope that this Conference will create a new momentum for international collaboration in nuclear science, technologies, applications and technical cooperation for the benefit of all Member States.

I thank you for your attention.