

**UK National Statement to the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology  
and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme**

Distinguished Co-Chairs

1. Firstly, I would like to thank our Co-Chairs from Finland and Ghana and the IAEA Secretariat for their organisation of this vital conference. I would also like to thank our Co-Chairs for their diligent work to agree the Ministerial Declaration by consensus, ahead of the meeting this week. We encourage the Agency and all Member States to build on this important Declaration, by putting into action the commitments we have made together and continuing our collective work.
2. I am delighted to be here at what is only the second Ministerial Conference focused exclusively on nuclear science and technology. Since the first Conference in 2018, the use of nuclear techniques has shown more than ever its ability to directly address some of the world's greatest challenges, from climate change to health and nutrition, contributing daily to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving the quality of people's lives.
3. The UK's mission is to build genuine partnerships to help create a world free from poverty, on a liveable planet. We will do this by tackling the climate and nature emergencies and global development challenges together, by working for peace, promoting the global economic development and growth necessary to deliver opportunity for everyone, wherever in the world they live. A key part of that mission can be achieved by the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.
4. The UK is unwavering in its support on the Non Proliferation Treaty. The NPT is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation architecture. In support of Pillar 3 of the Non Proliferation Treaty, the UK is working to expand access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, and support to the International Atomic Energy Agency, to develop and deliver new technologies and approaches towards overcoming development challenges including on food and water security, health and environment.

5. Peaceful uses and their vital benefits are part of why the Treaty is so important and why the UK continues to support the outstanding work of the Agency, through our contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) and to projects under the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Since 2020, we have contributed more £20 million to the TCF and more than £6 million in extra-budgetary contributions.
  
6. I am pleased to announce further extra-budgetary contributions at this Conference with nearly £400,000 going towards Projects addressing marine plastic pollution and climate smart agriculture. Further to this, I am also delighted to announce that the UK has pledged a further £1 million to Projects under the Atoms4Food initiative. As the number of people facing food insecurity has more than doubled since 2020, this pledge will help to assist the Agency in its vital efforts to help countries boost food security and to tackle growing hunger.
  
7. In addition to the vital work of the IAEA in transferring peaceful nuclear technologies to Member States, the UK, alongside the US and our participating countries, continue our work under the Sustained Dialogue on Peaceful Uses (SDPU). We promote greater understanding and greater access to the benefits of peaceful nuclear technologies – complementing and amplifying the Agency’s own efforts in this regard in areas such as health, agriculture and water security. We welcome the participation of all interested parties in this initiative and thank those who have supported the SDPU’s mission so far.

Co-Chairs,

8. Finally, I thank you, Distinguished Co-Chairs, and can reassure you of the UK’s continuous support to the IAEA and its efforts to securely transfer and promote nuclear technology to Member States, helping to address key development priorities.