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# A Partnership for Food Security

On 1 October 1964, FAO and its partner in the UN system, the IAEA created the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. The aim of setting up the Joint Division was to use the talents and resources of both organizations for broadening cooperation between their Member Countries in applying nuclear technology and related biotechnologies for developing improved strategies for sustainable food security.\*

Its uniqueness stems from the nature of the technology itself and the fact that all its activities are conceived, planned and executed only after the scrutiny and approval of the IAEA and FAO Governing Bodies.

The Joint Division is a successful example of inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the UN and a precursor for UN-wide reforms being undertaken. The UN and the governments of its Member States continually stress the need for more cooperation among UN agencies, for less overlapping and duplication and for more harmony in their approach towards building a prosperous and peaceful world.

Earlier this year, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei cited plans by the FAO to end the partnership as part of its reform process. "I believe that termination of the current arrangements would have significantly negative consequences for developing Member States in areas such as animal disease and insect pest eradication, land and water management, plant breeding, food safety and trade," Dr. ElBaradei said. He urged countries to maintain the partnership.

*\*Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*