



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

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Claudia Vieira Santos
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the IAEA

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Honorable Co-Chairs,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Brazil, I would like to express my congratulations to Director General Rafael Grossi and his team for their tireless work in organizing this second edition of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. I would also like to thank Ghana and Finland for their leadership and willingness to co-preside over this event.

In a world plagued by conflict and shadowed by the renewed menace of the use of nuclear weapons with their catastrophic humanitarian consequences, it is reinvigorating to gather here today to deepen our dialogue about "Atoms for Peace and Development". Although public perception of nuclear science and technology is often associated with its destructive power, we are witnessing a growing interest in the development of its peaceful applications. This high-level event demonstrates not only the centrality of this work within the Agency's statutory activities but it is key to mobilize the attention of public and private stakeholders.

It is never enough to have an opportunity to remind ourselves that for nearly 70 years the IAEA has been helping countries to meet their development goals through the peaceful use of relevant nuclear technology. Nowadays, this is needed more than ever. We congratulate DG Grossi for his leadership in mobilizing not only Member States but also other specialized agencies and private actors to create synergies and explore partnerships that allow scaling up concrete results. We also acknowledge the Agency's

efforts in developing capacity in nuclear science and technology as well as in addressing the gender disparities in this field.

It must be noted that to make a difference we need funding resources that are commensurate with our needs and ambition. As such, it is imperative that the Technical Cooperation Fund counts with sufficient, assured and predictable resources to enable the Agency to continue working as a platform to facilitate capacity building in the nuclear field and the transfer of associated technology and knowledge to Member States, especially those in the developing world.

Access to nuclear science and technology through technical cooperation and capacity building programs are essential to address the new challenges we face today. The flagship initiatives launched by the Agency - Rays of Hope, Atoms 4 Food, NUTEC Plastics, ZODIAC - are a direct response to the persistence of poverty and inequality in the areas of health, food and nutrition, energy, water management and environmental pollution. Climate change and increased demand for low carbon energy sources are part and parcel of those pressing global issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Brazil has consistently engaged with the Agency and its membership in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and applications so that the benefits of these technologies are made accessible to all and no community is left behind. We take pride in our participation in the "Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean" (ARCAL), which is celebrating its 40th

anniversary this year and has been instrumental to the vision of our region as a zone of peace and cooperation.

During his visit to Brazil last June, DG Grossi could once more witness the wide-range of research, development and innovation encompassed in the Brazilian Nuclear Program. We seek to expand the access to nuclear technology applications, in a safe, secure and sustainable manner to help improve the quality of life in our country and beyond.

Under the umbrella of our "National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN)" a plethora of projects and initiatives in partnership with the Agency have been developed and implemented. At this Conference a series of side events were organized as an illustration of our contribution in areas such as the Sterile Insect Technique for pest and disease vectors control; development of herbicide-resistant rice strains through nuclear techniques; radiation processing of hydrogels for potential healthcare and environmental applications; micro/nanoplastic remediation for environmental applications; and analysis of micro-reactor deployment, evaluating economic, social, and environmental impacts to support Brazil's energy transition.

Finally, the adoption by consensus of the Ministerial declaration leaves us with a note of optimism. It shows our collective determination and ambition to leverage nuclear science and technology to address persistent challenges and emerging threats. Energized by it we are committed to renewing our efforts to bring about a future in which the atom is only used for peace and the common good of mankind.

Thank you.