

Co-chairs

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the chairs for their excellent and hard work in the run-up to the conference to reach consensus on the spirit and wording of the Ministerial Declaration. I would also like to thank the IAEA for holding this conference in Vienna after a pause of six years due to the pandemic and other issues.

From a German perspective, the theme of our conference, “Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme” has to be followed by the three tiny words “for peaceful purposes”.

Let me emphasise the importance of an open and fair environment for collaboration on research and scientific development at an international and regional level. Germany has contributed to a number of projects in the field of peaceful uses and technical cooperation for many years and stands ready to provide continued support.

In this context, Germany thanks the Director General and the IAEA staff for their steadfast commitment to the sustainable use of nuclear science, technologies and applications.

Germany has decided not to use nuclear power as part of its energy mix because we do not see it as a sustainable option. Nevertheless, Germany is one of the leading countries in nuclear technology, for example in decommissioning, waste management and nuclear non-power applications. As an active and competent player, Germany will continue to follow and analyse global nuclear activities, and we will intensify our national programme for Competence Building and the Development of Future Nuclear Talents.

We remain committed and competent partners. We will use our expertise to help tackle international challenges.

This is also true for small modular reactors, where the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguards need to be considered at all times.

The world will face new challenges and threats if this is not done properly.

Germany has continuously demonstrated its role as a forward-thinking actor in the field of non-power applications, particularly in radiation risk research and advances in lung cancer screening.

Germany has been a permanent member of the IAEA Board of Governors since 1973. I can assure you that we will continue with our strong and constructive expert involvement in the work of the IAEA bodies, events and missions.

Germany is not only the fourth largest contributor to the IAEA budget and hence also to the Technical Cooperation Fund. It also makes additional contributions as an EU Member State. Moreover, Germany supports various fields of the Agency's valuable work with national extrabudgetary contributions amounting to over 2.8 million euros in 2024. These funds go towards the Agency's work in initiatives like the marine environmental laboratories in Monaco, the Rays of Hope Initiative, the Lise Meitner Programme and NUTEC Plastics.

Before I leave the stage, allow me to briefly direct your attention to our exhibition stand, which is presenting *"Germany's type approval of X-ray devices as an example of safety and efficiency gain in radiation protection"*

– you are cordially invited to join us!

Thank you very much.