

**Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea  
at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and  
Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme**

26-28 November 2024, Vienna

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**Ministerial Segment**

Co-Chairs, Director General, and honorable delegates,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Republic of Korea at this Ministerial Conference. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Director General and the Secretariat for their vital role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

I also appreciate their efforts to enhance the nuclear science and technology capabilities of Member States.

Nuclear science and technology drive innovations in health, environment, and agriculture, playing a key role in a sustainable future for humanity. Key IAEA initiatives such as ZODIAC, Rays of Hope, NUTEC Plastics, and Atoms4Food are boosting the advancement of nuclear science and technology, fostering innovation across these critical areas.

As a responsible Member State of the IAEA, the Republic of Korea actively participates in major initiatives through both financial and technical contributions.

Over the past four years, the Republic of Korea has contributed 3.45 million US dollars to the ZODIAC initiative and joined research projects to help Member States better respond to zoonotic outbreaks.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea has been a strong supporter of the Rays of Hope initiative to amplify radiotherapy capabilities in Member States. This May, we successfully conducted the imPACT Review Mission in Mongolia to strengthen the Member State's national cancer control capacity.

In addition, during this Ministerial Conference, the Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences (KIRAMS) is set to be officially designated as an Anchor Centre for the Rays of Hope initiative.

This designation will open up new opportunities for collaboration with more countries, deepening technical exchanges, and laying a solid foundation for broader engagement. As stated, the Republic of Korea has made significant contributions to other key IAEA initiatives. We remain committed to supporting and participating in future IAEA activities that require our involvement.

For over 60 years, the Republic of Korea has safely operated nuclear energy facilities and developed world-class technology. Building on this strong foundation, the Republic of Korea has addressed various societal challenges and prepared for future needs.

To respond swiftly to emerging issues, we are streamlining regulations that hinder technological progress, and are establishing a flexible research support system that facilitates strategic R&D and rapid demonstration.

In parallel, we are advancing core infrastructure, including large-scale research facilities. At the same time, we are enhancing our research capabilities by constructing a new research reactor for the large-scale production of medical and industrial radioisotopes.

HANARO, the only International Centre based on Research Reactor (ICERR) in the Asia-Pacific region, demonstrates exceptional capabilities in radioisotope production, materials testing, and neutron research. It provides Member States with opportunities for advanced technology support and human resource development.

Moreover, the Advanced Radiation Technology Institute (ARTI) was designated as an IAEA Collaborating Centre in August 2022. The designation allowed ARTI to facilitate Member State's research cooperation, technical support, and capacity building in the fields of environmental protection, advanced materials, food safety, and biotechnology.

There is also a new research reactor currently under construction in Gijang, the Republic of Korea, which is scheduled for operation by the end of 2027.

The reactor has the capacity to meet the annual demand for molybdenum-99 for over 8.5 million patients, ensuring a stable supply of radioisotopes to Member States.

We anticipate the facility to enhance the breadth and depth of the Republic of Korea's contributions through expanded technological cooperation.

Co-Chairs, Director General, and esteemed delegates.

The Republic of Korea hopes that our efforts will serve as a cornerstone not only for technical advancement, but also for global peace and the prosperity of all humankind.

We look forward to working closely with the Agency and jointly paving the way toward a sustainable future.

Thank you  
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