



*Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco at the
Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and
the Technical Cooperation Programme*

Delivered by

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Vienna, 26 November 2024

Madam and Mister Co-Presidents, Mr. Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, allow me to congratulate, on behalf of the Kingdom of Morocco, my sincere thanks to Finland and Ghana for the successful preparation of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme. **I would like to also commend Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA and the Secretariat for their efforts in organizing this Ministerial Conference.**

Co-Presidents,

2. **The Second Ministerial Conference marks an important moment for all Member States to renew their political commitment to the safe and secure use of nuclear technology applications and to address the growing needs of Member States of nuclear technology, within the evolving challenges to the international regime of nuclear safety and security.**
3. **The Kingdom of Morocco seize this valuable opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the IAEA in providing technical assistance to Member States to ensure the safe and secure use of nuclear applications.** In this regard, Morocco commends the innovative and pragmatic flagship initiatives of the Director General, namely **ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, Rays of Hope and Atoms4Food, which provided tangible and efficient response for zoonotic diseases, marine pollution, cancer therapy and food security.**
4. As part of the implementation of these initiatives, the cooperation between Morocco and the AIEA has been strengthened and sustained after **the official visit of the Director General to Morocco, in June 2022.** In this respect, **Morocco has taken concrete actions to develop an internationally recognized training infrastructure for peaceful nuclear applications, including in support of the initiatives of the Director General.** Indeed, the following Moroccan Institutions have been contributing to the implementation of the flagship DG initiatives:
 1. **The National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST), has been designated as a Collaborating Center in the fields of molecular biology and genomics, under ZODIAC initiative.**
 2. **The National Oncology Center in Rabat, has been approved as an Anchor Center under the Rays of Hope initiative.**
 3. **The National Center for Energy Sciences and Nuclear Technology (CNESTEN), has been designated as an International Center based on Research Reactor (ICERR), as well as a Collaborating Center in the field of environment.**
 4. **Morocco's Regulatory Body, AMSSNuR has been designated by the IAEA to host "the African School for Radiation Safety Regulators."**

Co-Presidents,

5. Following its continuing support to ZODIAC initiative, which was adopted under the Moroccan Chairmanship of the 64th IAEA General Conference, and following the proposal by Morocco to reinforce the regional dimension of this initiative, my country organized jointly with the IAEA two weeks ago, **the Rabat Regional Meeting on ZODIAC Implementation in Africa**, which gave an impetus to the implementation of ZODIAC Initiative by enhancing the African Network of National Laboratories.

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6. During this regional meeting, 31 African Member States have participated and adopted of a comprehensive document outlining a clear roadmap aimed at enhancing collaboration and synergies among African ZODIAC Laboratories.
7. Within the same commitment, Morocco organized for the first time, a **High-Level panel, with the participation of Director General of the IAEA, focusing on “The Role of Nuclear Technology in the Fight Against Cervical Cancer in Africa,” which concluded the need to strengthen the synergy, dynamics, and complementarity between all actors in the fight against cervical cancer in Africa.** Morocco, hosting an IAEA regional anchor center for cancer therapy, remains fully committed to support **“Rays of Hope initiative,”** aiming at providing cancer care for all, and alleviating the lack of radiotherapy in developing countries.
8. Besides, the use of nuclear technology for desalination and production of potable water is more than ever crucial. In this context, Morocco has presented, this year, as penholder, a resolution submitted by G77 and adopted by consensus at the 68th IAEA General Conference on **“Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactor”**. This resolution underlined the need for continued strengthening of international cooperation in the planning and implementation of nuclear desalination programs.

Co-Presidents,

9. The safe and secure use of nuclear application is a shared priority between Morocco and IAEA in Africa. Morocco has developed, thanks to the support of the IAEA, a domestic expertise in the promotion of the peaceful use of applications and technologies in a safe, secure and sustainable manner in many fields including, health, nuclear medicine, nutrition, water, agriculture, industry, environment, energy, nuclear safety, security, and safeguards.
10. In this context, Morocco is taking actions, in full cooperation with the IAEA, aiming at building national capabilities and sharing expertise in the field of nuclear applications, particularly in partnership with African Member States. Each year, **Morocco is organizing capacity building activities for experts from more than 40 IAEA Member States in Africa. Hundreds of Fellowships, scientific visits, workshops, master’s degrees certifications, as well as expert missions on regulatory control and nuclear security for the authorities to African Member States, are organized on a yearly basis.**
11. The Kingdom of Morocco, **under the high guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI,** is attached to the principles of South-South cooperation and African Solidarity and committed to continue its actions in support of multilateral efforts and promoting initiatives that **embody our collective moto, “Atoms for Peace and Development.”**
12. In closing, **Morocco remains fully committed to continue sharing, either in a bilateral setting or in cooperation with the IAEA, its experience with its partners as well as African countries with a view to promoting the use of nuclear applications, science and technology for peaceful purposes.**

I thank you for your kind attention and wish every success to the work of our Ministerial Conference.

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