

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Min Thein, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear
Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme**

(27 November 2024)

The Honourable Co-Chairs,

On behalf of Myanmar delegation, I extend our sincere gratitude and congratulations to the Honourable Ministers of Finland and Ghana for co-chairing this Ministerial Conference. I also appreciate Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi and the Secretariat for organizing this important event.

Co-Chairs,

Myanmar acknowledges the Agency's crucial role in supporting Member States, particularly developing countries, through its Technical Cooperation Programme, for peaceful uses of nuclear science, technology, and atomic energy, based on each country's priorities and needs, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

We commend the Agency's cross-cutting initiatives, including ZODIAC, NUTEC Plastics, Rays of Hope, Atoms4Food, and Atoms4NetZero. These initiatives are vital in addressing global challenges such as health, food security, plastic pollution, and climate change.

Co-Chairs,

Myanmar has benefitted greatly from the Agency's assistance in sectors such as food and agriculture, health and nutrition, water and environment, industrial applications, radiation safety, and nuclear knowledge management. With the Agency's support, Myanmar has received extensive training and capacity-building opportunities through national and regional programmes. Notably, in the food and agriculture sector, Myanmar has established seven laboratories focusing on molecular genetics, grain quality analysis, entomology, soil analysis, dosimetry, marine radiation monitoring, and isotope hydrology.

In the health sector, Myanmar has received valuable training in radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. In the livestock sector, Myanmar has improved its Veterinary Assay Laboratory for food safety and upgraded the public health laboratory in Yangon to strengthen its ability to detect and control transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases. The Agency's support has also been invaluable in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also grateful for the Agency's legal assistance in reviewing and advising on Myanmar's draft national nuclear law, which will comprehensively address safety, security, and safeguards.

Co-Chairs,

Under the current 2024-25 TC cycle, Myanmar is receiving assistance to establish a panoramic gamma irradiation facility, enhance food safety testing, and strengthen laboratory capacities for detecting zoonotic diseases. We are expanding radiotherapy services for cancer patients and upgrading radiation oncology and cardiology services.

Furthermore, Myanmar is now considering a nuclear power programme, with a particular focus on Small Modular Reactor and has sought the Agency's necessary assistance in this area.

Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, Myanmar is confident that the Ministerial Declaration we have adopted, along with the fruitful discussions at this conference, will further strengthen cooperation between the IAEA and Member States in nuclear science, technology, and applications. Through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme, we look forward to making continued progress in achieving our Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you, Co-Chairs.