



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

26-28 NOVEMBER, VIENNA

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Excellencies, colleague, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to thank Finland and Ghana who, together with the secretariat, have co-organised this important conference. The Netherlands welcomes the attention it generates to enhance public awareness of the peaceful use of the atom. Under your able leadership, co-chairs, a solid Ministerial Declaration has come together, which will serve to guide our work in years to come.

Co-chairs,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Hungary on behalf of the EU. I would like to make the following additional remarks.

The peaceful use of nuclear technologies is an essential part of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Nuclear applications contribute significantly to technological, economic and societal progress in IAEA Member States. They play an important role in addressing our most pressing challenges in areas such as human and animal health, water management, agriculture, food safety, nutrition, energy security and environmental protection, thereby contributing to realizing both the Sustainable Development Goals and our climate goals. Additionally, nuclear techniques can be leveraged to preserve and characterise our shared cultural heritage.

The Netherlands supports the IAEA's key role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Specifically, we fully support the Agency's Technical Cooperation programme. We contribute our full share to this fund, on time. Sufficient, predictable and assured funding allows the Agency, together with its laboratories, to assist in the delivery of expertise, the exchange of equipment and the transfer of technology.

Moreover, the Netherlands has regularly provided extrabudgetary funding in support of: food security, through support for the renovation of the laboratory's

greenhouses, the fight against zoonotic diseases progress on gender parity through the IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme and TC safety projects in the Caribbean.

Co-chairs,

Medical radioisotopes play a vital role in diagnosing and treating cancer amongst other applications. The global supply of medical radioisotopes is at risk due to the ageing production infrastructure. In order to guarantee the future supply of these lifesaving medicines and to make full use of their potential, the Dutch government has decided to invest almost € 2 billion EUR in the construction of a new research reactor 'PALLAS'. We believe that by bringing innovative medicines to the market and guaranteeing a continued supply, many people will benefit from lifesaving treatment.

Co-chairs,

One of the main topics of this year's conference is Climate Change. The Netherlands has committed itself to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, with a specific target for our energy supply to be carbon neutral by 2040. To achieve this goal, our future energy system will rely mainly on offshore wind and solar, supplemented with nuclear power and

flexibility options. To this end, the Netherlands plans to increase its nuclear power capacity and has adapted its nuclear energy policies accordingly. In doing so, responsible ways of handling radioactive waste are being included.

Co-chairs,

The Netherlands attaches great importance to highest levels of the safe, secure and safeguarded use of nuclear technology. The peaceful uses come with responsibilities and commitments that contribute to building trust and confidence. That serve as strong foundations to broaden the use of nuclear technology in addressing our most pressing needs.

Thank you, Chair