



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges

**Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

28–30 November 2018

Ref. No.: CN-262

Announcement

A. Background

Peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology have expanded in all spheres of life, including in the areas of food security, health, natural resource management, industry, energy, research and development, and innovation. In the past six decades, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been implementing its statutory mandate “to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world”, and has firmly established itself as a unique multidisciplinary organization contributing to development in Member States. As a result of the IAEA’s support, including through its programme of training and technology transfer, many Member States have developed extensive capabilities in nuclear science and technology and have grown from recipient countries to resource donors in their own right. Membership of the IAEA continues to grow and demand for its services in all areas of nuclear sciences and applications is increasing steadily.

Innovations in peaceful applications of nuclear techniques are making a consistently increasing socio-economic impact worldwide and offer solutions for addressing many of the emerging challenges such as adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, response to emergencies, food security, environmental protection, water resource management, growing cancer burden, to name but a few.

This Ministerial Conference will focus on nuclear science, technology and applications for peaceful uses, and their delivery to Member States through the IAEA’s technical cooperation programme, while highlighting their future contribution to sustainable development.

B. Objectives

The purpose of the conference is to enable the participants to engage in high-level dialogue on promoting the integration of nuclear science and technology in their respective national strategies for achieving sustainable development, as well as to recognize high impact innovations in peaceful applications of nuclear techniques in addressing current and emerging development challenges and the role of the IAEA in facilitating the deployment of such techniques by Member States.

C. Target Audience

The conference will bring together ministers, high-level decision-makers and policy formulators from Member States, as well as technical experts and representatives from academia.

D. Conference Structure and Major Topics

The conference will include a **Ministerial Segment**, which will provide an opportunity for ministers to deliver brief national statements. The Conference will also include a **Scientific and Technical Programme** that will comprise high level panel discussions on the following topics:

1. Improving quality of life

Factors that influence the quality of life go beyond such parameters as ‘per capita income’ and ‘per capita energy consumption’ and include the availability of basic requirements such as food, health care, education, water, safe and clean environment.

The world has been witnessing continuous palpable changes in many spheres over the past decades, and such changes combined with the growing population pose a challenge to nations with regard to maintaining as well as improving the quality of life. Nuclear and radiation technologies, too, have evolved over these decades to support development and provide unique solutions to overcoming several obstacles on the path of growth. This session will address applications of nuclear technologies that have a direct role in improving the quality of life.

2. Combatting the impact of climate change

The effects of climate change are profound and far-reaching and are being felt in such phenomena as unprecedented extreme temperatures, floods and droughts, all of which in turn cause crop failures and occurrence of unknown diseases. It would be necessary to have a multi-pronged approach to address the situation through (a) the use of technologies that do not contribute to climate change in place of those which do; (b) the use of technologies to mitigate the deleterious effects of climate change on the environment; and (b) the use of technologies to adapt to the changed climate situation.

While it is fairly well understood that nuclear power could be an option for providing clean energy, the role that nuclear technologies can play in mitigating environmental effects or in climate change adaptation is not so widely known. This session will highlight the role of nuclear and radiation technologies in combatting the impact of climate change.

3. Education, research and development in nuclear sciences — sustaining, enabling and empowering

Education and training in science and technology play a vital role in achieving development in the fields of food and agriculture, medicine, industry and environment. Building a strong broad competence in the development and use of nuclear technologies is vital for deriving the maximum benefit from them in a sustainable manner. Education and training in nuclear sciences are essential for using nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques judiciously and for building a strong knowledge foundation to enable research and development and to cater to a country’s specific needs. In this session, experiences related to, and options for, achieving sustainable use of nuclear technology will be shared and discussed.

E. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the conference are requested to send a completed Participation Form (Form A) and the Grant Application Form (Form C) to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs or National Atomic Energy Authority), or to one of the organizations invited to participate, for subsequent electronic transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org).

A participant will be accepted only if the Participation Form is transmitted through the competent national authority of a Member State of the IAEA or by an organization invited to participate.

Participants whose official designations have been received by the IAEA will receive from the IAEA further information approximately three months before the opening of the conference. This information will also be posted on the conference web page (see Section N).

Please note that later this year it will become possible to manage the entire designation process electronically, when the new InTouch+ (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) facility currently used for the IAEA's technical cooperation events will also be made available for regular programme meetings. Using InTouch+, prospective participants will be able to apply for meetings and submit all required documents online. National authorities will be able to use InTouch+ to review and approve these applications. Interested parties that would like to use this new facility should write to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

F. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee will be charged to the participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of designated participants attending the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help cover the cost of attendance of certain participants. Such assistance may be offered upon specific request provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participants on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the conference. In general, not more than one grant will be awarded to any one country.

If governments wish to apply for a grant on behalf of one of their participants, they should address specific requests to the IAEA to this effect. Governments should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted by **30 June 2018**;
2. Accompanied by a duly completed and signed Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by a completed Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually covers **only part of the cost of attendance**.

G. Distribution of Documents

A preliminary programme of the conference will be made available on the conference web page (see Section N) and the final programme will be distributed at the conference during on-site registration. National statements in the original languages, PowerPoint presentations as available, and other relevant documents will be posted on the conference web page and the IAEA Conferences and Meetings app during the conference.

H. Exhibitions

A limited amount of space will be available for displays and exhibits during the conference. Details will be provided on the conference web page in the near future (see Section N).

I. Working Languages

The working languages of the conference will be all the official IAEA languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

J. Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Please note that the IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-booking and no shows.

Detailed information on accommodation and other administrative details will be made available on the conference web page well in advance of the conference (see Section N).

K. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least eight weeks before they travel to Austria. Designated participants will be required to submit a letter of invitation in support of their visa application.

L. Greening

To demonstrate its commitment to sustainability, the IAEA will organize this symposium as a green meeting according to the guidelines of the Austrian Ecolabel.

There will be a focus on the areas of paper smart documentation, waste reduction and recycling, and environmentally friendly catering.

M. IAEA Conference Secretariat

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N. Conference Web Page

The IAEA web page for the conference is as follows:

<https://www.iaea.org/events/ministerial-conference-on-nuclear-science-and-technology-2018>

It will be updated regularly with new information, and participants are encouraged to check it on a regular basis.