

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

28-30 NOVEMBER, VIENNA

STATEMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Thank you Chair,

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Austria on behalf of the EU. I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Chair,

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an essential part of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, founded on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Netherlands attaches great importance to the safe and secure peaceful use of nuclear energy in a range of scientific and technical applications. Needless to say that the role of the IAEA is crucial in overseeing this broad spectrum of activities. Science and technology contribute greatly to global sustainable development.

In light of the myriad of nuclear applications that benefit humankind, the Netherlands welcomes this conference and the attention it generates to the wider public.

The Netherlands continues to fully support the Agency's Technical cooperation programme. We contribute our full share to this fund. Through the TC, the Agency assists in the delivery of expertise, the exchange of equipment and the transfer of technology. With the IAEA's laboratories in Seibersdorf, Monaco, and Vienna, it is a key driver in the development of nuclear technologies.

With all these activities, the Agency contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in areas such as food security, public health and sustainable water management. In the countries and regions that are most affected by climate change IAEA programmes have a substantial impact.

Chair,

The application of nuclear science and technology benefits all member states. Many important nuclear applications contribute significantly to technological, economic and even societal progress in all IAEA Member States.

In this light we are delighted that we had the chance to organize, together with representatives of Egypt, France, and Brazil, a side event on the restoration of cultural heritage. Together with Belgium and Australia, we will organize an event on medical isotopes this afternoon.

Regarding cultural heritage, experts had a discussion about accelerator and reactor-based analysis with respect to the history, interpretation, diagnosis and preservation of cultural heritage and natural history objects.

Medical isotopes play a crucial role in diagnosing and treating disease, including cancer. The Dutch High Flux Reactor in Petten is one of the world's largest producers of medical isotopes. Every day, 30.000 cancer patients benefit from medical isotopes produced in Petten. Together with Belgium and Australia, we are responsible for two-thirds of the global production of medical isotopes. In our side event we underline our shared commitment to ensuring the availability of medical isotopes.

This year, the High Flux Reactor in Petten converted from using High Enriched Uranium to Low Enriched Uranium for the production of its medical isotopes. We consider this an important achievement in our non-proliferation efforts.

Peaceful use of nuclear energy goes hand in hand with the highest levels of nuclear safety and security. This commitment contributes to building public trust and confidence, which is needed to broaden the successful use of nuclear applications worldwide.

Thank you, Chair