

64th regular session of the IAEA General Conference

Text of the pre-recorded video statement of the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, Manuel Heitor

Good morning to everyone, and a special thanks to DG Rafael Grossi for having managed to organise this event in such a unique time in which we all live. This is a unique moment because during the last two months we have all faced a new context for science and particularly for nuclear sciences. Today we notice that society in general knows that nuclear science and sciences in general are becoming very important for peace and for the development of our world. In recent years Portugal and many other countries have emphasized the role of nuclear science in cancer treatments. In Portugal we have drawn up an action plan to change our main nuclear campus into a high nuclear energy application campus for cancer treatments.

Our attention today should also be given to a better understanding of the role of nuclear science in the prevention of zoonotic diseases. I would like once again to congratulate DG Rafael Grossi on the agency's action plan for the prevention of zoonotic diseases, which is of critical importance worldwide, and in which nuclear science has an important role to play.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Agency and the leadership of Rafael Grossi in bringing women into science. We know that this is not a new issue, but it is a very important matter in our modern society.

Thank you very much for your attention.