

The IAEA at 60

Atoms for Peace and Development, for the Benefit of Humankind

By Yukiya Amano

The IAEA is proud to mark 60 years of serving the world by making the benefits of peaceful nuclear science and technology available to improve human well-being, health and prosperity.

The world has changed significantly in the last six decades. The IAEA has kept pace both with the changing needs of Member States and with technological developments.

From the 26 countries which ratified the IAEA Statute in 1957, we have grown to an organization with 168 Member States that spans the globe. And our membership continues to grow. Most of the countries that join the IAEA today are developing nations, keen to make use of the benefits of nuclear science and technology in human health, food and agriculture, industry, electricity generation — and countless other areas.

The IAEA works closely with Member States to help them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted by world leaders last year. We are active in many of the 17 Goals, including those concerning poverty and hunger, human health, clean water, affordable and clean energy, and climate change.

These are all fields in which nuclear science and technology have a great deal to contribute.

That is why I now describe our mission as *Atoms for Peace and Development*. The past 60 years have demonstrated that nuclear science and technology can play a major role in supporting sustainable development.

Committed to ensuring peaceful uses

A key area of IAEA activity is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. We do this by implementing safeguards in around 180 countries. Several hundred IAEA inspectors are constantly on the road, visiting nuclear facilities and keeping track of nuclear material to ensure that it is not being diverted from peaceful purposes. We played an important role in helping to bring about the 2015 agreement between Iran and the group of countries known as the E3/EU+3 — the *Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action* — and are now verifying and monitoring Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under that agreement.

We coordinated the international response to serious accidents at nuclear power plants, including Chernobyl in 1986 and Fukushima Daiichi in 2011, and helped to bring about a significant improvement in nuclear safety everywhere. Safety is a national responsibility, but the IAEA brings countries



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together to agree on safety standards and share practical experience.

We serve as the central global platform for international cooperation to strengthen nuclear security and prevent nuclear and other radioactive material from falling into the hands of terrorists. We provide radiation detection equipment, train border guards and customs officers, maintain a global database on trafficking incidents and establish nuclear security guidance.

Many countries believe nuclear power can help them to address the twin challenges of ensuring reliable energy supplies, while curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear power is one of the lowest-carbon technologies available to generate electricity.

The IAEA provides assistance and information to countries that wish to use nuclear power to help them do so safely, securely and sustainably.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work as IAEA Director General is meeting people whose lives have improved because of the work and support provided by the IAEA. They include farmers, who can grow more abundant crops thanks to nuclear techniques, fishermen, who fish in cleaner waters thanks to our environmental work, and cancer patients, who have better access to radiotherapy and nuclear medicine because of the IAEA.

This special edition of the IAEA Bulletin provides a richly illustrated overview of the work of the IAEA. I hope you will find it interesting and informative.

I pay tribute to my predecessors as IAEA Director General, all of whom made major contributions to shaping the organization that is so highly valued by our Member States today.

And I thank all of our very talented staff, past and present, for their dedication.

As we begin our seventh decade, we face challenges in all areas of our work. But I am confident that, with the active support and engagement of our Member States, we will overcome them. The IAEA will remain an organization that delivers concrete results, making peaceful nuclear technology available to improve the lives of our fellow human beings throughout the world.