

IAEA Scientific Forum 2017

VIENNA, AUSTRIA,

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WELCOME REMARKS BY

Dr Madeleine. TCHUINTE

Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation, Cameroon

Mr Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA,

His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho,

Her Excellency Ms Veronika Skvortsova, Minister of Health of the Russian Federation,

His Excellency Mr Eric Ulloa, Vice Minister of Health of Panama,

Distinguished representatives of Member States,

Distinguished representatives of organizations and partners,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to attend the opening of this Scientific Forum on **Nuclear Techniques in Human Health**. Therefore, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General and to Member States for this opportunity. Let me also extend a warm welcome to you and wish you successful deliberations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Cancer is a major public health problem in Africa because of the increased prevalence of key risk factors, including those associated with social and economic transition. A high residual burden of infectious agents such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B virus in some African countries still drives the rates of certain cancers. Recent WHO statistics show that about one-third of all cancers in the region are estimated to be infection-related. However, overall breast and cervical cancer in women and prostate cancer in men are the major cancers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Radiotherapy plays a major role in the curative process of a cancer unit. When looking at the principal therapeutic means used to cure cancer patients, radiation medicine is found to constitute an effective method. However, several African countries do not have a radiotherapy centres to make services accessible and affordable to the large majority of the population. These centres are indispensable for cancer control.

Therefore, I wish to call on IAEA to continue to support Member States' efforts to establish and expand radiotherapy services through the training of radiation oncologists and to provide adequate technical advice to Governments to tackle the cancer problem. Private-public partnerships should be further enhanced to complement Governments' efforts in order to increase opportunities for financing cancer services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident that your deliberations during this Forum will contribute to further enhance the contributions of nuclear techniques in Health.

In closing, I wish to reiterate to you the assurance of the highest consideration accorded by my Government to the Agency and its activities.

Thank you for your attention.