

Summary of 2017 HLPF Side Event: *Use of nuclear science and technology to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3 and 9.*

On 18 July, the Permanent Missions of Malaysia and Botswana to the United Nations along with the New York Office of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) hosted a joint side event on the *Use of nuclear science and technology to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 1* (end poverty), *2* (food security), *3* (human health) and *9* (infrastructure, industrialization and innovation).

The Representative of the Director General of the IAEA to the United Nations, Mr Xolisa Mabhongo officiated, while Mr Frank Bruhn, Section Head, Quality Assurance, IAEA Division of Programme Support and Coordination, introduced the topic of IAEA technical cooperation with Member States. The Permanent Representative from Botswana, H.E. Ambassador Charles Themani Ntwaagae, and the Chargé d'affaires of Malaysia, Mr Kennedy Mayong, delivered remarks. An interactive discussion followed.

In his presentation, Mr Bruhn first showed a short video clip on "*Science With Impact: Sustainable Development Through Nuclear Technology.*" He then briefed on features of the IAEA Technical Cooperation programme. Both Member States acknowledged the impact that participation in the IAEA technical cooperation programme has had on their governments' efforts to achieve their development objectives in various sectors using nuclear techniques in human health, agriculture and food safety and security, animal health, and industry.

Ambassador Ntwaagae said that through collaboration with the IAEA, Botswana has protected its beef exports, much of which go to the European Union. He said the majority of his country's population derives its livelihood from agriculture, and that livestock production was an important subsector. He said that because of training, capacity building and provision of equipment, IAEA support has helped Botswana to combat and control various transboundary animal diseases, particularly in the establishment of two veterinary diagnostic laboratories, which in turn has protected its livestock industry.

Chargé Mayong's remarks were similar. He said that his country used nuclear technology to advance agricultural production as well, along with human health and industry. In agriculture, Malaysia has used the technology for plant breeding to develop varieties of fruits and vegetables, to study plant nutrition and soil fertility, in food irradiation to extend the shelf life of certain foodstuff, to help manage insect pests, and to promote soil and environmental preservation. Malaysia has also worked with the IAEA in the field of nuclear medicine, he said. The Nuclear Medicine Department of the Penang Hospital in northern Malaysia is a regional referral center which serves patients in four states, or a total population of 4.5 million. Further, participation in the IAEA Programme of Action for Cancer therapy (PACT) has helped Malaysia to develop its own national cancer control plan. In the industrial sector, Malaysia has used nuclear technology in processing natural polymers to create more useful consumer products. Finally, he noted that a study conducted by Malaysia's Nuclear Agency demonstrated the impact that technical cooperation in nuclear science and technology has had in raising GDP in his country.

Thereafter the floor opened for questions.