

IAEA STATEMENT

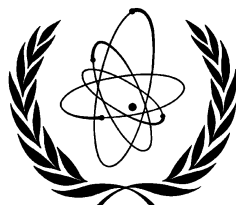
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

General Debate

Building momentum towards the SDG Summit

New York

17 July 2023



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Chairperson, Colleagues,

The promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technologies is at the heart of the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA is currently supporting 145 countries and territories in the transfer of nuclear, science, technology and application towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the past few years, the IAEA has launched flagship initiatives with multiplier effect on Member States capability of attaining the SDGs. The following are some examples:

- Through the Atoms4NetZero initiative, the IAEA helps countries plan for their energy mix including nuclear power, which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to possibly close to zero by 2050. The Atoms4NetZero initiative will support countries assess the potential of innovative nuclear technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMR), as possible contributors to their long-term strategies to decarbonize the electricity and other carbon-intensive sectors. The initiative will develop credible scenarios using the IAEA's analytical energy planning tools which take into consideration environmental impact.
- Two other specific initiatives, the Marie Sklodowska-Curie fellowship and the Lise Meitner programme, are supporting capacity building and the creation of a strong network of women scientists.
- The Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) network, launched at the UN 2023 Water Conference, enhances the collaboration of water laboratories around the world to empower the generation of reliable scientific data for water resource management, at the same time enabling knowledge sharing, fostering capacity building and targeted training.
- NUTEC Plastics is a flagship initiative launched to address the global challenge of plastic pollution in two main areas: monitoring and assessment of marine plastics and reduction of plastic/polymer waste volumes by enhancing plastic recycling and production of sustainable alternative products to petroleum-based plastics, through the application of radiation techniques. NUTEC Plastics aims at integrating radiation technologies for plastic waste recycling into national, regional and global initiatives.
- Health is another area of high interest for the IAEA, where several actions can become a game changer. The IAEA's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) initiative is designed to help countries build capacities to timely respond to future outbreaks of zoonotic diseases and pandemics. ZODIAC aims to create a global network to foster scientific collaboration and share information: to date 150 Member States nominated a ZODIAC National Coordinator, and 126 Member States nominated a ZODIAC National Laboratory.

Last but not least, complementing the ongoing efforts of the IAEA to assist Member States in improving their cancer care capacities, the Rays of Hope initiative aims to bridge the shortfall in equipment and highly skilled and well-trained personnel in low- and middle-income countries through a focus on countries without radiotherapy or with inequitable access. The initiative also foresees the establishment of a number of Anchor Centres, to serve as regional and interregional support hub where countries can share their experience and knowledge.

A lot remains to be done. Joining forces and working together is the only way forward to ensure progress towards the SDGs. The time is now.

I thank you.