

# **IAEA STATEMENT**

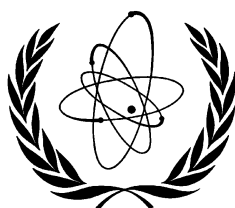
**High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

**SDG 5 and interlinkages with other SDGs –**

**Gender Equality**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**7 July 2022**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

***SDG 5 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Gender Equality***

**Thursday, 7 July 2022 – 09.00–12.00 hrs**

Mr Chairperson,

The IAEA is the international organization at the center of the global nuclear field. At the IAEA, everything we do depends on science and technology, whether it is safeguarding nuclear material so it's not diverted from its peaceful uses, or helping countries tap the big benefits of nuclear science and its applications.

Nuclear not only provides clean energy to fuel economic growth and fight climate change. Nuclear techniques are used in many different areas of scientific research that broaden our horizons. Nuclear science and technology is central to diagnosing and treating cancer; to boosting crop yields through plant mutation; and to understanding the impact plastic pollution has on our oceans. Every year the IAEA supports its Member States in all these areas. With 175 members, our reach is almost universal.

You and I know that science suffers from a gender gap. In 2018, UNECO found that only one in every three researchers were women and even fewer were engineering graduates. In the US, last year's census showed that women made up little more than a quarter of the STEM workforce.

These inequities are unjust and a problem not only for women. All societies and economies stand to gain when women are able to play their full and rightful role, especially in key sectors like physics and STEM.

That is why, in every project we look specifically at how we can help women gain the maximum possible benefit. Because when they do, we know that everyone else does too. Meanwhile, at every one of our events we look for a fully representative group of contributors.

But nuclear has too big of a gender gap to stop there. Around the world, women make up little more than a fifth of the nuclear sector's workforce. In some nuclear fields they represent as little as 5%. That is why the Agency in 2020 launched the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme. Since its launch, the fellowship programme has received 1042 applications; 210 students, representing 93 Member States, have been selected, studying in 53 countries worldwide. By August 2022, 73 students are expected to complete their Master's programme

and 55 to pursue internship facilitated by the IAEA. The third call for applications will now open on July 15 and close on September 30.

Overall, their fields of study have included nuclear energy; nuclear science and applications; nuclear safety, security and non-proliferation; and nuclear law.

Our support of women goes beyond attracting them to the field, it is also an integral part of the work we do supporting Member States. Thinking about gender, not has a ripple effect on how those with whom we interact think about the issue, it allows the work we do to make a bigger impact. When nuclear science and technology benefits women, they tend to benefit the greater community. Women are at the sharp end of some of the world's biggest challenges, including those we are addressing through our work, including through some recent flagship initiatives such as Rays of Hope, Zodiac, Nutec Plastics. The IAEA firmly believes that gender parity is crucial in creating a stronger, more equal and more diverse workforce that can drive development and sustainability. The IAEA will therefore continue to pursue efforts to empower women and girls to further propagate the message of atoms for peace and development.

I thank you.