

Closing session

Statement by Mr Dazhu Yang, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation

16:30, 2 May 2017

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

We have reached the closing session of our three day meeting – the first ever international conference on the IAEA's technical cooperation programme.

I thank our speakers and presenters for their insightful input, and I thank all the participants for their engagement and interest throughout these very action-packed days. Over the course of the Conference, we have heard compelling accounts of how countries, through the IAEA technical cooperation, have used nuclear science and technology to move forward on health, food and agriculture, water resource management, the environment protection. We have heard interesting experiences in addressing energy needs and in building safety infrastructure in developing industry.

Something that has particularly struck me has been the many, many references to the benefits of collaboration, of joint undertakings, of working in partnership to achieve common goals over several decades. This has been a truly strong message emerging from this Conference. Of course, it is particularly relevant taking into consideration Agenda 2030, with its emphasis on working together for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The closeness among the participants during the Conference has been also very much noticed. It's to be expected – a specific feature of the technical cooperation programme has been bringing people together for six decades now, and many of us have known each other for long years. It is indeed a privilege for me to address this community on the last day of our first Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now present to you the concluding remarks arising from this Conference.

Concluding Remarks

- The first ever International Conference on the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond - Contributing to Development was held in Vienna, Austria from 30 May to 1 June 2017.
- More than 1160 participants, including Heads of States and Government and other high level officials, from 160 countries and 27 organizations and entities attended the Conference.
- Mr Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA; His Excellency Mr Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay; Her Excellency Ms Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius; Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; and His Excellency Mr Tebogo Joseph Seokolo, Chairman of the IAEA Board of Governors; delivered addresses to the Conference at its opening session.
- During the course of the Conference, it was widely demonstrated how the IAEA technical cooperation programme, as the major mechanism for the Agency to provide development

services to its Member States, has transferred nuclear technology, supported human and institutional capacity building, shared knowledge and expertise, and facilitated regional and international cooperation.

- Significant contribution was made by the IAEA TC programme in supporting Member States for safe utilization of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes in many different areas. Concrete examples of achievements and impact were presented which were made possible with the support and cooperation of the Agency through its technical cooperation (TC) programme over the past six decades.
- In the area of **Human Health**, IAEA support has enabled many Member States to establish their cancer diagnosis and treatment facilities and to set up nuclear medicine centres, with competent, well trained staff and the necessary equipment. In order to support Member States to address cancer in a comprehensive manner, the IAEA through PACT supports Member States to integrate radiotherapy into comprehensive cancer control. Nutrition studies using stable isotope have provided important information and data for the development of relevant national policy and interventions.
- In the area of **Food and Agriculture**, many Member States have benefited from IAEA support to develop new crop varieties, using radiation induced mutation breeding to improve the yield, quality and resilience of crops, built capacity in animal health diagnosis and production, which thus contributed to food security. In the area of food safety, technical and human capacity for food monitoring has been created and enhanced. Member States have strengthened their capacities in insect pest control using the Sterile Insect Techniques, and in soil and water resource management.
- In the area of **Water and Environment**, isotopic investigations focused on the evaluation and management of groundwater resources contributing to the efficient management of water resources and improving drinking water quality and ensuring sustainable livelihoods and complementing efforts to enhance human health, food security and agriculture. The TC programme has focused on building capacities in environmental monitoring programmes including the management of marine and air pollution.
- In the area of **Industrial Applications**, non-destructive testing has provided a powerful tool for quality control and non-destructive examination of large structures, devices and machinery. Nuclear techniques are now used to examine and protect cultural artefacts, and to clean waste water, sterilise medical supplies and preserve food commodities.
- In the area of energy, Member States have benefited from the assistance of the Agency in energy planning, and for nuclear power programme infrastructure development.
- With the support of the TC programme, many Member States have promulgated nuclear laws or decrees and relevant regulations, and have established competent radiation and nuclear regulatory authorities which are important for Member States to ensure radiation safety.
- With TC programme assistance, tens of thousands of people have been trained; many have become high-level government officials, enterprise managers, senior experts and specialists in research institutes, university professors, and senior staff in regional and international organizations.
- The TC programme has facilitated increased access to nuclear science and technology, supported knowledge sharing, built and reinforced scientific networks, and strengthened Member States' capacities to base their policies and decisions on scientific evidence in a broad range of important areas, particularly environment and climate change.

- The TC programme has also facilitated regional and interregional cooperation, through regional/cooperative agreements, triangular, South-South and South-North cooperation.
- The role of the National Liaison Officer (NLO) has been noted for its important contribution to the success of the programme. The NLO serves as the primary contact person between the IAEA and his or her country and act as representatives of their countries. This role is crucial in ensuring that the Agency fully understands the needs and wishes of the country. The NLO also makes sure that the government, and other important authorities such as nuclear regulators, doctors and scientists, are aware of the Agency support available to them.
- It has been recognised that the country programme framework (CPF) has been an instrumental tool for strategic planning where priorities to be addressed through the TC programme are identified. This framework will play a major role in the years to come to link, as appropriate and where relevant, national priorities with the SDGs.
- It was appreciated that the IAEA encourages countries to support the participation of women in Agency programmes. At present, around a third of participants in the TC programme are women, but the IAEA aims for a steady increase in the coming years. This helps to build a growing pool of qualified women for the future.
- Looking to the future, Sustainable Development Goal 17 recognizes the role of science, technology and innovation as essential enablers for development, and emphasizes the importance of partnerships as a critical means of implementation. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires multi-actor collaboration, and cannot be addressed in isolation. It was noted that the TC programme has established mutually beneficial strategic, technical and financial partnerships with UN sister organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (through the FAO/IAEA Joint Division) and the World Health Organization, and has cooperated with other UN organizations such as UNEP and UNIDO, and other regional and international organizations, development banks and other financial institutions. Such long-standing cooperation should be encouraged and reinforced so that, together with its partners, the Agency can build on common strengths and effectively utilise resources for an optimal delivery of their services to Member States. Fostering partnerships that promote integrated approaches to development will support a more effective TC programme, and will also ensure coordination and complementarity of activities. This will enable an efficient and cohesive response to current and upcoming development challenges in Member States. In addition, promoting triangular, South-North and South-South cooperation will promote sustainability, and contribute to effective technical cooperation.
- The Conference underscored that the TC programme can strengthen delivery of services to Member States by continuing its efforts to increase focus on need-driven projects that are aligned with national development strategies, particularly, where appropriate, to national SDG targets.
- The Conference also emphasized that the IAEA should continue to support Member States in their efforts to work together with relevant partners, including with the private sectors, with the aim of bringing nuclear R&D results to the marketplace, upscaling successful TC projects, and creating conditions for sustainability. The Conference observed that the nuclear institutions in Member States would benefit from closer association with development activities by aligning their work with national SDG targets.
- The Conference underscored that the TC programme is cross-cutting and draws on the support of all the Technical Departments of the Agency. Application of one-house approach and

SMART management should be further strengthened to avoid duplication and maximize synergies.

- The Conference acknowledged that over the last six decades, Member States have provided generous support for technical cooperation activities, including through their contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF). TCF has been the main resource for the Programme and is expected to remain so in the future. It is very important that all Member States pay their share to TCF in full and on time. The TC programme has also benefited from government cost-sharing and extra-budgetary contributions, including through the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI), as well as various in-kind contributions such as the hosting of training events and fellows, or the provision of expertise, and these contributions will remain important for the programme in future. Partnerships with financial institutions should be strengthened and the IAEA should seek support from other non-traditional donors, and through strengthened public-private partnerships. Efforts and cooperation of everyone will need to be employed to render the resources for the programme sufficient, assured and predictable.
- Ladies and gentlemen, these are the conclusions drawn from statements, the presentations and discussions that we have heard over the course of this Conference. They underscore the importance of the IAEA technical cooperation programme for our Member States, and highlight the importance of strategic, well-considered partnerships in contributing to the achievement of global development objectives. In addition, they recognize the essential role of nuclear science and technology for development.

I would like to thank all the speakers and panellists who have made significant contribution to this Conference. I would like to thank the organizing committee of the conference, and to extend my appreciation to the IAEA Technical Departments and the Department of Management, particularly the Division of Conferences and Documentation and all the other Agency offices which have provided such dedicated support all along, ever since we started preparing for this Conference more than one year ago. I would also like to thank our moderators, rapporteurs, interpreters, the hardworking clerks and technicians, and all the staff of the VIC who have made this Conference possible. I thank you all very much indeed – we couldn't have done it without you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for your attention. My colleagues and I would like to express our gratitude for your engagement, support and contribution throughout this Conference.

Thank you very much. I declare this Conference closed.