

**Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology**  
**CANADIAN STATEMENT**

Co-Chairs,

Ministers,

Excellences and distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to thank our co-chairs from Japan and Costa Rica and the IAEA Secretariat for their organization of this timely and topical conference.

The IAEA, as a key international focal point for the development of nuclear science and technology, is uniquely placed to contribute directly to Member States' needs in meeting key development challenges, offering practical and innovative solutions to enhance food security through crop mutation breeding, improving health through sterile insect technique and fostering efficient water management through radioisotopic technology, to name only a few.

It is because of this unique and central function that Canada is a strong and committed supporter of the Agency's work. The Agency's ability to co-house nuclear scientific innovation and delivery of assistance in an integrated manner is essential to the achievement of our collective objectives pursuant to the SDGs and must be supported. This capacity is a clear demonstration that various parts of this organization can and must work in an integrated manner and that when it does, it can achieve great things!

This is why Canada is proud to have contributed \$2.3 million in support of the IAEA's Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories ReNuAL project. Canada believes that the IAEA laboratories provide unique and invaluable technical assistance to Member States in the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, supporting their capacity to attain SDGs.

Furthermore, Canada remains committed to consistently provide its assessed voluntary contribution to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund in full and on time. We encourage all Member States to do the same. Canada also continues to support the work of the Agency in nuclear science and technology by providing technical expertise, supporting fellowship programs and hosting technical events.

Co-Chairs,

Canada always strives to remain a world leader in science, technology and innovation. A key pillar of our nuclear policy is our commitment to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as enshrined in Article IV of the NPT. As part of Canada's Science Vision, we have committed to ensure greater accessibility, diversity and gender equality amongst the new generation of scientists. We believe that innovation is, simply put, the key that unlocks our potential to adapt and prepare for the future.

Leveraging our long history and experience in the nuclear field, Canada is investing \$1.2 billion over 10 years to renew our Chalk River Laboratories and transform this facility into a world-class nuclear science and technology campus. This includes investing in new and renewed science infrastructure and leveraging collaboration with labs and universities worldwide. In this, we seek to advance national

priorities in safety and security, health, and the environment, including climate action.

Co-Chairs,

Before concluding, I would like to underline the immense contribution made by the strong leadership of women to a robust, safe, and competitive Canadian nuclear sector. We commend the Agency's efforts to ensure gender balance in its panel discussions at this Ministerial Conference and we are pleased to be able to contribute directly to that effort. And we are encouraged by the many commitments to gender mainstreaming work.

In the same breath, I would also like to underscore the work that remains to be done in pursuing equal representation of women in the Agency, in Canada and worldwide. This is why Canada is advocating for a focus on gender diversity not only here at the IAEA, but also through the G7 and other international fora.

As launched at the Clean Energy Ministerial, Canada is leading a campaign called "Equal by 30", a principles-based initiative for public and private organizations to build consensus around equal pay, equal leadership, and equal opportunity, along with concrete actions to move the dial. The campaign counts over 40 organizations so far, and was recently endorsed by all G7 countries. I encourage your organizations and governments to join.

In addition, Canada has outlined the importance of development aid that directly benefits women in our *Feminist International Assistance Policy*. For this reason, we continue to support the Agency's efforts to

ensure that gender balance is taken into account in the design of Technical Cooperation projects.

In closing, please allow me to reaffirm Canada's unshakeable commitment to support the work the Agency in advancing the many benefits of nuclear science and technology.

Thank you.