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**Statement by the Resident Representative of Portugal to the IAEA
H. E. Ambassador António de Almeida Ribeiro
on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and
Technology
Vienna, 28-30 November 2018**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ms. Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity:

My delegation welcomes the organization of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology highlighting the importance of the mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the leading global intergovernmental forum in the nuclear field, working for the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology, thus contributing to international peace and security and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in close collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, both at regional and international levels.

Furthermore, allow me to express our deepest appreciation for the work carried out by the Co-Chairs, Costa Rica and Japan, in the preparation of this Conference.

In the context of the NPT 2020 Review Conference cycle, my country believes that the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear



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disarmament, while being vital for the further development of peaceful nuclear applications.

It is therefore important to underline, and support, the IAEA's central role in achieving the goals of the NPT, while promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including by establishing and upholding international standards for nuclear safety and security.

Portugal notes with concern that climate change constitutes one of the biggest challenges affecting humanity and acknowledges the work done by the Agency in helping Member States increase their awareness of nuclear science and technology as a tool to combat the negative effects of climate change.

My delegation is committed to help promoting the application of nuclear science and technology in the health sector, in particular for cancer therapy, as a reliable safe practice, striving to guarantee its wide availability. This requires large international, public and private efforts, namely:

- to promote nuclear science and technology globally;
- to train future generations of medical physicists and nuclear health professionals;
- to improve our health systems and the capacity to facilitate the best medical care and services to all our citizens.

With this in view, my country strongly values the Technical Cooperation Programme as an important mechanism for transferring nuclear technology to Member States, helping them achieve nationally identified targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as energy, human health, food production, water management and environmental protection.



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The TC Programme is of paramount importance for national authorities, and it gives me great pleasure to reiterate that, as in previous years, Portugal will honour, in full, its assessed contribution to the TCF in 2019.

In addition, Portugal takes this opportunity to commend the Agency for the modernization of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, under the projects ReNuAL and ReNuAL +. In recognition of its essential role in delivering valuable assistance to Member States helping them to maximize the benefits that can derive from nuclear science and technology, Portugal has recently announced an extra-budgetary contribution for ReNuAL +.

In closing, my delegation looks forward to a successful outcome of this Ministerial Conference, and wishes to reiterate its long-lasting support to the IAEA as evidenced in our engagement in several fields of activity.

Thank you, Distinguished co-chairs.