

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: addressing current and emerging development challenges**

**Vienna, 28-30 November 2018**

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

1. I am honoured to represent the United Kingdom here today at the first Ministerial Conference focused exclusively on Nuclear Science and Technology. The UK aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.
2. The UK is a strong supporter of the IAEA and its work in promoting the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear technology. This work is unique, and its reach is truly global.
3. The IAEA's work on nuclear science and technology makes a tangible contribution to realising the benefits of peaceful uses, as envisaged in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This work can improve socio-economic development globally and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
4. The UK remains one of the biggest contributors of financial, technical and political support, across all the Agency's Major Programmes. This includes support to the IAEA's work on Nuclear Applications and its Technical Cooperation programme.
5. The UK continues to provide support to the IAEA's laboratories in Seibersdorf, which I had the opportunity to visit again yesterday. We

have contributed over four-hundred thousand euros (€400,000) in extra-budgetary support to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+ projects as well as over seven-hundred thousand euros (€700,000) to the Linac Accelerator bunker which will complete this spring. We encourage other Member States to contribute to help meet the current Renewal+ shortfall for the modernisation of their laboratories.

6. This is in addition to the €3.7 million euros pledged at this year's General Conference to the Technical Cooperation Fund for 2019.
7. I am also delighted to announce today a further contribution from the United Kingdom of €2 million euros for the development of the Seiberdsdorf site. This money will be used to build the IAEA's in-house physical protection laboratories and thus ensure that beneficiary Member States see the full and sustained benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.
8. Taken together, this represents over €6.8 million euros of investment.

Co-Chairs,

9. The UK takes its commitment to International Development seriously. We spend €15.4 billion euros on International Development globally. We are also working with the Agency to identify further areas where UK development expertise and support can be harnessed, in partnership with the IAEA, to support the development needs of Member States.
10. Another example of the UK's commitment to this important area of work is our involvement in the Agency's research. Currently, the UK is actively engaged in over thirty Coordinated Research Projects.

11. These include environmental issues, water resources, human health, food and agriculture. The UK provides technical expertise and access to its world leading research institutes to assist the IAEA's research and development.
12. Nuclear science and technology cannot exist without the skills and innovation that drive it. As part of the UK's ambitious Nuclear Sector Deal the UK is committed to enhance the skills required to ensure the nuclear sector remains competitive with other low-carbon technologies by driving innovation and improving diversity.
13. The UK continues to attach great importance to the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming within the nuclear industry. By 2030 our goal is to have a nuclear industry work force that is 40 percent women.
14. The UK is pleased that Dr Fiona Rayment, the Executive Director of the Nuclear Innovation and Research Office, and a world leader in nuclear skills and innovation, will be speaking in panel session 4: *The Way Forward*. Dr Rayment is also a champion for Women in Nuclear.
15. Finally, on behalf of the UK delegation I thank you, Distinguished Co-Chairs, and assure you of the UK's continued support to the IAEA and its work in promoting the responsible and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Thank you.