

Remarks at G-77 Handover Event

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano

Vienna

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to join you to mark the handover of the Chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.

I congratulate Ambassador Youssef of Egypt on assuming the Chairmanship.

And I thank the outgoing Ecuadorean Chairmanship, under the able leadership of Ambassador Jativa and Charge d’Affaires Gomez, for its successful term of office. I have greatly valued the cooperation and support of Ecuador.

The G-77 is highly effective in making sure that the voices of developing countries are heard within the Agency. I am grateful for the constructive role which the G-77 plays in the work of the Agency and for the support which you have given to me personally.

G-77 countries are not just recipients of IAEA technical cooperation. They are active participants in sharing peaceful nuclear science and technology with each other, especially through training programmes for scientists, engineers, doctors and other professionals.

This makes a vital contribution to the delivery of the IAEA technical cooperation programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the highlights of 2018 was our first ever ministerial-level conference on nuclear science and technology in November.

Ministers recognised the importance of science and technology for development and welcomed the modernisation of our nuclear applications laboratories in Seibersdorf.

This hugely important project is now entering its final stages and support from G-77 countries has been very important in making it happen.

I look forward to formally opening the new Linear Accelerator facility at the Dosimetry Laboratory in the coming months. And I urge countries in a position to do so to contribute funds to enable us to complete the job of equipping the new laboratories.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Developing countries are making more and more use of nuclear science and technology in industry, farming, health, water management and other areas. Many are interested in nuclear power as a stable source of low-carbon energy. The value of nuclear science for development is increasingly recognised.

We are keen to expand the services provided by the Agency to keep pace with that growing demand.

In the budget process that is now underway, I count on the support of the G-77 in ensuring that we obtain at least a modest increase in our budget so we can continue to provide the high-quality services which you expect.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by reiterating my deep appreciation for the support of the G-77.

I look forward to continuing our productive cooperation and I wish Ambassador Youssef every success in his term of office.

Thank you.