

Remarks at G-77 Handover Ceremony

Vienna

9th March 2018

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 Naranjo of Ecuador on assuming the Chairmanship.

And I thank the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Najafi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for his successful term of office. I have greatly valued his cooperation and support.

G-77 countries show considerable interest in the services of the IAEA in making available peaceful applications of nuclear technology. I appreciate your active support for our work.

That support was expressed in a very concrete manner when we asked you to help us modernise the nuclear applications laboratories at Seibersdorf. Great progress has been made with ReNuAL and ReNuAL+ and the backing of the G-77 was critical in making it happen.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have visited dozens of developing countries since I became Director General more than eight years ago.

Everywhere I go, I see increasing demand for nuclear technology in areas such as human health, agriculture, food production and energy generation, as well as in many sectors of industry.

Meeting that demand, and helping countries to use nuclear technology to achieve their development goals, will remain a high priority for me in the coming years.

Cancer will remain a particular focus of our work. We are working to improve the delivery of our programmes in this field.

In January, I was in Uganda for the inauguration of a new Cobalt 60 radiotherapy machine. Uganda had had no radiotherapy services at all for two years after the old machine – the only one in the country – broke down.

We helped the Government to buy the new equipment, install it safely at the Uganda Cancer Institute and decommission the old machine. We provided training for specialist staff.

This is just one of many examples of the Agency making a real difference to the lives of the people of our Member States.

I also see many excellent examples of South-South cooperation in the nuclear field, with countries with more advanced capabilities providing training and expertise to their neighbours.

The Agency strongly supports such initiatives, which play an important role in helping us to deliver the TC programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, I issued the *Draft Budget Update for 2019* at the end of January.

I know I can count on the support of the G-77 countries in the forthcoming consultations on this. It is essential that the Agency receives sufficient funding to deliver the services which all Member States expect.

One of the most important IAEA events of this year will be the *Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology*, which starts in Vienna on November 28th. I encourage all countries to be represented at ministerial level.

In conclusion, I again express my great appreciation for the very constructive role which the G-77 plays in the work of the Agency, and for the support which you have given to me personally.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you.

Thank you.