



International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Statement

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Agenda Item 12.2 WHO's Work in Health Emergencies

Chair,

The IAEA has actively assisted its Member States through some of the most challenging health emergencies, and continues to do so, including through its recent Rays of Hope initiative. Through this initiative, the IAEA is working to improve access to cancer diagnosis and treatment, with a particular focus on the Member States that lack facilities for radiation treatment.

In response to the Ukrainian authorities' requests of assistance to resolve current challenges in providing safe cancer care, in November last year, the IAEA Board of Governors approved an off-cycle Technical Cooperation project in Ukraine, under the Rays of Hope initiative, to support the country in strengthening radiation therapy and medical imaging. The project will contribute to strengthening radiation therapy and medical imaging to meet national needs by providing equipment and strengthening human resource capabilities to ensure additional access to and effective delivery of cancer management, diagnosis and treatment.

The project is intended to facilitate the strengthening or establishment of services in order to meet increasing demand, particularly in some medical institutions that have become key locations for cancer patients coming from different regions in Ukraine.

Recently, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and WHO Director General Dr. Tedros agreed on organizing a joint IAEA-WHO mission to Ukraine to assess the current status of cancer care services in the country and to discuss the ways of enhancing capacity in cancer management during the current

circumstances. Together, and with Rays of Hope adding new impetus, the IAEA and WHO remain committed to upscaling our long-standing close collaboration to help countries improve cancer control planning, ensure safe delivery of cancer treatment and to provide joint guidance on important topics relating to cancer, among others.

A series of virtual meetings with stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, to set up communication channels and identify priorities and needs will be undertaken, and followed by the joint mission.

We look forward to working with WHO on this joint mission.

I thank you Chair.