



**International Atomic Energy Agency**  
**IAEA Statement**

**152nd Session of the World Health Organization Executive Board**  
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**Agenda Item 6. Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the  
General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable  
diseases, and mental health**

Chair,

The IAEA continues to work in close collaboration with the WHO and our common member states around the world on human health and non-communicable diseases. Our partnership under the WHO-IAEA Joint Programme in Cancer Control continues to be the cornerstone of the framework for coordinated action towards the NCD agenda.

Cancer is a global crisis hitting low and middle-income countries particularly hard. In particular, many countries in Africa still lack access to radiotherapy as a part of comprehensive cancer care. That is an area where the IAEA can make a contribution and we do so in partnership with WHO at global, regional and country level.

The IAEA supports countries to improve access to nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, and dosimetry services. With key partners such as the WHO and IARC, the IAEA is working to integrate these services into comprehensive cancer control plans. To date, the IAEA and partners conducted cancer control assessments (imPACT Reviews) in more than 110 countries. In addition, work is ongoing with more than 15 countries to develop their national cancer control plans.

The IAEA's Rays of Hope initiative, launched on the margins of the 2022 African Union Summit, by the IAEA's Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, together with Senegal's President Macky Sall and with

the support of global health leaders including Dr. Tedros, steps up the global response. Rays of Hope galvanizes all stakeholders in assisting countries in procuring the equipment and knowledge they need, particularly in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy.

Our collaboration on the NCD agenda goes beyond cancer. The IAEA supports African countries in combatting malnutrition and cardiovascular disease. For instance, stable isotope techniques (non-radioactive) generate accurate data that provides evidence for improving nutrition interventions and programmes. Through these techniques, several countries have the capacity to assess breastfeeding practices, micronutrient absorption from foods, the link between acute malnutrition and later diseases, and to understand the evolution of childhood obesity.

We look forward to continuing our longstanding collaboration on NCDs with WHO and other partners.

I thank you Chair.