



International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Statement

76th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization
Geneva, 21 – 30 May 2023

**Agenda item 13.2. 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 contributes to progress achieved in the control of non-communicable diseases in the area of cancer control by enhancing Member States' capabilities to establish sound policies concerning radiotherapy in cancer management, including access to diagnostic imaging and nuclear medicine services in a safe and quality manner.

The IAEA Rays of Hope flagship initiative, which has the strong support of WHO, is an example of how the IAEA contributes to improvements in people's lives by supporting low- and middle-income countries establish and improve access to radiation-based medical technologies such as diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services through needs assessments, training, expert advice and procurement of equipment.

With key partners such as the WHO and IARC, the IAEA works to assess the needs and capacities of member states and integrate radiation medicine services into national and comprehensive cancer control plans. Last year, the three organizations carried out comprehensive cancer control assessments in Colombia, LAO PRD, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan. This year, Fiji, Cambodia, Jordan, El Salvador, Venezuela, Guinea, Comoros,

Papua New Guinea, Sudan and Ethiopia will be receiving this support. These assessments are used to inform planning and resource mobilization of large-scale cancer control projects, for example in the case of Uzbekistan through the Islamic Development Bank.

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

Thank you Chair.