



International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Statement

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Agenda Item 7. Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Chair,

The IAEA, through its flagship Rays of Hope initiative, is supporting countries to improve access to radiotherapy, access to diagnostic imaging and nuclear medicine services to be delivered in a safe and quality manner. With key partners such as the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the IAEA works to assess needs and capacities of Member States and integrate radiation medicine services into national and comprehensive cancer control plans.

Last year, the three agencies carried out comprehensive cancer control assessments in Bolivia, Eswatini, Gambia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Peru. Bolivia, Cambodia, Gambia, Indonesia and Peru also received support for development of their National Cancer Control Plans. This year, Chile, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Turkmenistan will be receiving joint comprehensive cancer control assessments. These assessments are used to inform planning and resource mobilization of large-scale cancer control projects, for example in the case of Comoros, Gambia and Eswatini, through the development of bankable documents. These are instrumental in enabling Member States to advocate for financial support. Last year, the IAEA finalised the review of the Bankable Document for Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Uganda. This year, Botswana, Ghana, Mauritania as well as countries in the Asia Pacific region, will be receiving

support to develop these Bankable Documents. Member States have successfully leveraged these documents for resource mobilisation for either set up of the first radiotherapy centre or for expansion or consolidation of many.

Chair, the IAEA contributes to improving people's lives by supporting countries in need with assessments, training, expert advice, procurement of equipment and resource mobilization as they establish or strengthen radiation medicine capacities and services. To further support countries on accurately measuring radiation doses, the Agency issued an updated code of practice: *Absorbed Dose Determination in External Beam Radiotherapy*.

The IAEA is working closely with partners such as WHO to strengthen countries' capacities to assess and use nuclear technologies to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. The IAEA and WHO are also supporting the Global Breast Cancer Initiative by creating a common implementation framework with resource-appropriate strategies for countries to improve both prompt diagnosis and timely treatment.

Since effective cancer care requires a multifaceted approach, the IAEA and WHO published *Guidance on Setting Up a Comprehensive Cancer Centre* to enhance cancer control capacities. Drawing on the expertise of professionals around the world, including through five country examples, this resource outlines the fundamental principles of multidisciplinary cancer care while describing the essential infrastructure, human resources and equipment required.

The IAEA also led a *Lancet Oncology* Commission on Radiotherapy and Theranostics together with experts from 44 academic institutions and medical centres across 23 different countries, identifying strategies to optimize patient care and health outcomes and proposing actions and investments that can enhance access to radiotherapy and theranostics.

We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with WHO and other partners.

I thank you Chair.