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International Atomic Energy Agency

Statement

74th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 13. Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board. **13.3 Expanding access to effective treatments for cancer**

Read by: Ms. May Abdel-Wahab, Director of the Division of Human Health, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications

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We joint previous speakers in welcoming the progress in the implementation on the "Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases". The IAEA works closely with WHO, to address NCDs, including cancer.

Through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), the IAEA, jointly with WHO and IARC, streamlined the approach to develop comprehensive cancer control programmes for Member States. Over the past year, we have strengthened our cooperation and improved cancer control needs assessments through imPACT Reviews and the follow-up to these reviews.

IAEA's work in radiation medicine supports key global initiatives on cervical and childhood cancer, and the forthcoming breast cancer initiative. Due to great collaboration with our partners, Member States can continue receiving this support virtually despite COVID-19.

Over the past few months, the IAEA, together with global professional societies in radiation medicine, has provided thousands of health professionals with a wide range of resources including webinars in multiple languages. In addition, the IAEA published technical guidance documents and publications on how to ensure continuity of essential radiation medicine services during the pandemic and technical guidance documents for medical imaging departments with information for practitioners to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infections among patients, staff and the public.

The IAEA also conducted surveys to assess the effect of COVID- 19 on access to nuclear medicine studies world-wide. Unfortunately, significant decreases in availability because of the pandemic were found.

Looking ahead, to cost-effectively address the varying conditions of radiotherapy in countries, an interactive Comprehensive eLearning Platform (CeLP-RT), integrating all necessary training resources, is being developed.

The IAEA also recently convened the first high-level meeting with global leaders of major radiation oncology societies, research groups, journals and thought leaders to further develop ORION, a unified global database and international research database.

Partnerships are key to addressing the complex cancer control systems that support the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with WHO in support of our Member States to build back better resilient health systems and implement the health-related SDGs.

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