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International Atomic Energy Agency

Statement

74th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 32. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

Read by: Ms. Lisa Stevens, Director of Division of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy in the Department of Technical Cooperation

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The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the capacities of the global health infrastructure and highlighted the need for the United Nations system to redouble its efforts to support all Member States.

The IAEA and WHO enjoy a longstanding and close partnership in areas such as cancer control, nutrition, vector-borne diseases and on improving radiation protection and safety of patients. Our successful partnership lies on different arrangements such the IAEA/WHO Joint Programme on Cancer Control, the participation in the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases, the Joint Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, IAEA-WHO Postal audits, IAEA/WHO Network of Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratories (SSDL), and the Joint Radiation Emergency Plan of the International Organizations and the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies.

In spite of the challenges faced during the last year, our collaboration has not stopped. Throughout this pandemic, we have maintained health safety measures to ensure that our 24/7 emergency response capacity is always fully available; furthermore, the IAEA published technical guidance documents and publications on how to ensure continuity of essential radiation medicine services during the pandemic. Recently, we published a technical guidance document on the procurement of radiotherapy equipment for cancer treatment; moreover, the joint IAEA/WHO/IARC imPACT review missions have also been expanded to incorporate a review of childhood cancers.

We will continue building on the success of our partnership with the WHO in response to the new challenges brought by the pandemic and to support all efforts to build back better and realize the goal of one health for all.