

International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA Statement

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

Agenda item 26. Collaboration Within the United Nations System and With Other Intergovernmental Organizations

Chair,

The IAEA and the WHO enjoy a longstanding and close partnership in areas such as non-communicable diseases, nutrition, vector-borne diseases and on improving radiation protection and safety of patients and health workforce.

In the area of cancer, the IAEA works closely with WHO, IARC and many other global partners to ensure complementarity, with each organization bringing its technical expertise to the comprehensive cancer control approach. Synergies for cancer control support at country level is pursued with the UN Population Fund in the area of women's cancer, with UNICEF in primary prevention and treatment for childhood cancer, UNODC on palliative care. The IAEA is also working closely with development banks such as the World Bank in exploring opportunities for member states to increase financing for cancer control.

Our successful partnership with WHO on cancer lies on different arrangements, such as 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, the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI), Global Initiative for Cervical Cancer Elimination, Joint UN Action Group on Cervical Cancer Elimination, Global Childhood Cancer

Initiative, IAEA-WHO Postal audits and IAEA/WHO Network of Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratories (SSDL).

The IAEA has also partnered with 11 of the largest professional societies in cancer care, with the aim of strengthening the IAEA's support to Member States, particularly capacity building in radiation oncology, medical physics and diagnostic imaging. Their expertise, educational resources and training will also be channelled on the ground through regional Rays of Hope 'anchor centres' to Member States.

The IAEA works closely with UN partners on the Joint Radiation Emergency Plan of the International Organizations and the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies.

On pandemic preparedness and response, the IAEA continues to coordinate closely with the WHO, FAO and OIE through the IAEA flagship initiative 'the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action' (ZODIAC), most notably by engaging in regional training activities under ZODIAC in Africa and Asia. Together with WHO and FAO, the IAEA has held a ZODIAC workshop on mpox and Lassa fever infections in animal reservoirs and the risks for public health transmission.

We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with the WHO, UN partners and other organizations to support our Member States to save lives and drive health for all.

Thank you Chair.