



International Atomic Energy Agency
IAEA Statement

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Agenda Item 13.1 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 UN agencies carried out comprehensive cancer control assessments in Bolivia, Eswatini, The Gambia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Peru. Bolivia, Cambodia, The Gambia, Indonesia and Peru also received support for development of their National Cancer Control Plans. This year, we already conducted three comprehensive cancer control assessments, to Chile, Rwanda and Sri Lanka and, initiated preparations for the forthcoming assessments to Ghana, Madagascar, Moldova, Tanzania and Turkmenistan. These assessments are used to inform national cancer control policies and plans and resource mobilization of large-scale cancer control projects, for example in the case of Comoros, Republic of the Congo, 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, and Mauritania have already received support to develop Bankable Documents, with additional support planned for countries in the Asia Pacific region, including Cambodia, Lebanon, Mongolia, and Nepal. 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.

The Rays of Hope Anchor Centres in Argentina and Türkiye organized workshops which developed regional roadmaps to strengthen paediatric radiotherapy services and the Anchor Centres in Japan and South Africa held training courses for nuclear medicine physicians from their respective regions.

The IAEA enhances the diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases by issuing guidance documents; providing technical expertise; developing quality assurance audit tools; facilitating technology transfers; and supporting the professional development of medical practitioners worldwide, particularly those in LMICs. Through the IAEA's efforts, many nuclear medicine facilities around the world can safely provide the necessary tests and resources needed to detect complications due to diabetes and help protect the lives of diabetic patients.

Advances on Radiopharmaceuticals for diagnostic, therapy and theranostics, have proven to be instrumental in prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. The consolidation of a Joint Working Group on Radiopharmaceuticals regulation and the launched of a Radiopharmacy database will enable the consolidation of strategies and available information around the world.

Chair, the IAEA organized the fifth International Conference on Hybrid Imaging (IPET 2024) in Vienna, Austria, from 7 to 11 October 2024. Through sessions covering specific disease sites, the Agency examined the critical role that these techniques play in cancer management – deepening the more than 550 attendees' understandings of complex cases and applications.

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.

We look forward to our ongoing collaboration with WHO and other partners. I thank you Chair.