



International Atomic Energy Agency

Statement

70th Session of the Regional Committee for WHO Regional Committee for Europe of the
World Health Organization (WHO).

IAEA's Head of Delegation: Ms Lisa Stevens, Director of the Division of Programme of
Action for Cancer Therapy, Department of Technical Cooperation,

14 - 15 September 2020

Honourable Ministers,

Dear Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

It is my honour to lead the delegation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the seventy-third session of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO). I am representing the IAEA as Director of the Division of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy, Department of Technical Cooperation.

The IAEA is the world's foremost forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The IAEA works for the safe, secure and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. We help countries gain access to technologies that can save lives by working closely with key partners such as the WHO, leading regional and international professional associations and societies and international financial institutions.

Through its Technical Cooperation programme, the IAEA transfers nuclear technology to Member States, helping them to address key development priorities in a number of areas including health and nutrition. The IAEA supports its Member States in building and strengthening their capacities related to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Cancer in Europe and Central Asia is a priority health issue. We are doing all we can to help Member States achieve SDG 3. Jointly with WHO and IARC, through our Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) we help countries develop comprehensive cancer control programmes, by assisting them to assess their needs and formulate evidence-based policies in response.

The IAEA work covers radiation medicine for communicable and non-communicable diseases' diagnosis and treatment, as well as ensuring the radiation safety of patients, medical staff and the environment. Specifically, we help countries use radiology and nuclear medicine to diagnose, manage, and treat cancer and other conditions. We are also working to increase access and quality of radiotherapy and medical imaging services.

Safety is crucially important when nuclear technologies and radioactive materials are being used, so the IAEA provides implementation of Quality Assurance and Quality Control

programmes in nuclear technologies. We also support scientific-research activities in MSs through our coordinated research projects (CRPs). As always, we are well aware that the final beneficiaries of all our activities are cancer patients and their families.

The IAEA is also able to respond quickly to health emergencies. From the outset of this pandemic, the IAEA is providing assistance to by delivering COVID-19 kits, including diagnostic equipment and personal protective equipment. In June 2020, the IAEA launched the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) to strengthen global preparedness for future pandemics contributing to establish a worldwide network to help national veterinary laboratories in monitoring, surveillance, early detection and control of animal and zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19, Ebola and Zika.

Nuclear technology application in the health of peoples is one of the priorities of the IAEA in responding to the needs of its Member States in the region and globally. In this connection, we give high priority to partnerships to help the Member States to improve the health of peoples.

Thank you.