



IAEA Board of Governors – March 2024

Agenda Item 5 – Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2024

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Thank you, Mr. Chair

Switzerland thanks the Director General for his Report and DDsG Mokhtar and Chudakov for their introductory remarks. I would like to make the following four remarks:

First, Switzerland is a strong supporter of the IAEA’s activities to promote the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. This is a concrete contribution to the implementation of Article IV of the NPT. Nuclear technology and its many diverse applications have an important role to play in improving human welfare and in supporting Member States to implement national development plans as well as in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. We also wish to highlight the important contribution of the Agency’s laboratories in assisting the transfer of nuclear technology to Member States and look forward to the upcoming Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications. Switzerland will engage actively in the preparatory process and the Conference.

Second, Mr. Chair,

Switzerland has longstanding experience and expertise in isotope hydrology. The Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag), financially supported by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, has cooperated over the last years with the IAEA in developing groundwater vulnerability maps for Africa. The successful outcomes of the project were the main driver in establishing a Practical Arrangement between Eawag and the IAEA in 2022. To further enhance this fruitful collaboration, Eawag has joined the Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) Network. Additionally, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supported GloWAL with € 200’000 last year.

Third, Switzerland is a longstanding and strong supporter of the Agency's activities through its two Collaborating Centres, Spiez Laboratories and EPFL. This support builds on Switzerland's long tradition of nuclear research and is also a visible demonstration of our commitment to multilateralism and international partnership. The need for a research strategy in the nuclear sector stems from the increasingly stringent safety requirements, but also from the vibrant global research activities dedicated to the development of new nuclear technologies for CO₂-free energy production. Last year's re-designation of the EPFL as a Collaboration Centre in the field of nuclear energy allows the continuation of the successful collaboration in advanced reactor experiments and high-fidelity Multiphysics nuclear simulation techniques.

And finally, Mr Chair,

Our second Collaborating Centre, the Spiez Laboratory, is involved in many different activities with the Agency in the field of nuclear applications, such as the Agency's interlaboratory study on the discharge of ALPS-treated water at Fukushima. Another example is the longstanding engagement of Spiez Laboratory in the network of Analytical Laboratories for the Measurement of Environmental Radioactivity (ALMERA). Switzerland looks forward to host the training workshop of ALMERA on environmental sampling that will take place in Switzerland in June this year. Also in 2024 we will begin with the preparational work for the re-designation of the Laboratory as a Collaborating Centre for a further four years term.

I thank you.