

Conference Closing Remarks by

Ms. Najat Mokhtar,

DDG, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I have been following with great interest this Conference over the last five days and am really impressed with the level of professionalism and commitment of our speakers, the fruitful scientific discussions and the lively side events, including one on gender parity in accelerator science and technology. We had more than 160 participants with us here, at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, and more than 300 joining us online, representing more than 70 Member States. This clearly shows the importance of the subject and timely organization of this Conference.

Today, more than 20,000 accelerators around the world help create radiopharmaceuticals, cure cancer, preserve food, monitor the environment, strengthen materials, understand fundamental physics, study the past and even disclose the crimes. This Conference has demonstrated that thanks to the recent technological breakthroughs in the accelerator technology and associated instrumentation, accelerators also become an attractive alternative to other sources of ionizing radiation such as gamma irradiators or research reactors, among other conventional techniques.

The IAEA, through its coordinated research projects and its technical cooperation programme, supports countries with accelerator applications in health, agriculture, research, environmental monitoring, cultural heritage and industry. Accelerator technology is also at the heart of two recent IAEA's initiatives such as Rays of Hope and NUTEC Plastics. Presently without an accelerator facility of its own, the Agency lends this support to Member States by using available infrastructure in other Member States through a Collaborating Centre scheme, bilateral agreements or other arrangements.

Of course, we could offer much more and do more in this field with our own accelerator-based Ion Beam Facility at the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf. We could in particular offer more capacity building hands-on training and applied research to support accelerator operators and users around the world. To make it happen, I echo what the IAEA Director General said in his opening remarks, and ask Member States, including private sector, to help us with either financial or in-kind contributions to establish such a facility within a few years.

Dear colleagues,

Based on the success of this event which is a pioneer Conference on accelerators organized by the IAEA, and by acknowledging your positive feedback we have received, we intend to organize another international conference on the subject in 3-4 years, so it becomes a periodic event in series.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to thank

- All speakers and poster presenters for their interesting contributions and inspiring discussions.
- All those attending and connected online until this very last moment
- The International Programme Committee for abstract reviews and helping in finalizing the technical programme
- Our organising team from the IAEA Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences for their hard work and commitment to make this Conference such a success
- Our Conference Services for their administrative and logistic support
- Our Technical Cooperation department for offering a great number of grants for participants from the developing countries, as well as
- All exhibitors and sponsors.

Thank you once again for attending our Conference and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! I wish you all safe travels home, but before that, enjoy the sunshine in this beautiful city of Vienna!