

WELCOMING ADDRESS AND OPENING REMARKS

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IAEA TECHNICAL MEETING

INPRO Dialogue Forum on the Potential of Nuclear Energy to Support the Sustainable Development Goals, Including Climate Change Mitigation

6–8 June 2017

IAEA, Vienna, Austria

Scientific Secretaries: Kyungwon Rho & Grigoriev Alexey (INPRO)

6 JUNE 2017, TUESDAY, 9:30 – 9:40, MEETING ROOM: C Building, C2

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Mikhail Chudakov and I am Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy.

On the behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you to this INPRO Dialogue Forum on the Potential of Nuclear Energy to Support the Sustainable Development Goals, Including Climate Change Mitigation.

The International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) was launched in 2000, and the INPRO's objective is to help ensure that nuclear energy is available in the 21st century in a sustainable manner. Moreover, INPRO seeks to bring together all interested Member States, including technology holders and users, to jointly consider actions to achieve desired innovations.

INPRO's membership currently consists of 42 Members – 41 IAEA Member States and the European Commission (EC). Additionally, several other countries participate on a working level or as observers.

Regarding the scope and tasks of the INPRO, currently, there are four major tasks identified in INPRO Biennium Plan for 2016–2017. These tasks are Global scenarios, Innovations, Sustainability Assessment and Strategies, and Dialogue and Outreach.

Under this framework, the INPRO Dialogue Forums offer a platform for technology holders, technology users and other stakeholders to share information, perspectives and knowledge on issues related to sustainable nuclear energy development.

The 14th Dialogue Forum is being organized by INPRO Section with support from Nuclear Power Technology Development Section, Nuclear Power Engineering Section, Nuclear Infrastructure

Development Section, and especially with strong support from Planning and Economic Studies Section (PESS) of Planning, Information and Knowledge Management Division.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you all know well, there is an increasing global interest in Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation. Since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, the international community has pursued achieving the goals of sustainable development. In the process of these efforts, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In addition, at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) held in Paris in December 2015, the Paris Climate Change Agreement was adopted, and on 4 November 2016, the Paris Agreement officially entered into force. The Agreement addresses the need to limit the rise of global temperatures and requiring the States Parties to the Agreement to take action. This historic Agreement provides an opportunity for countries to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the increase in global average temperature this century to well below 2°C, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C above pre-industrial times.

Most countries had officially submitted their own intended nationally determined contributions before the negotiations for the Paris Agreement, and they now have an obligation to implement these plans. Furthermore, the countries are obliged to submit new nationally determined contributions every five years as of 2020.

After the adoption of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the development of sustainable and low carbon energy has become a key issue, and nuclear energy could play a significant role in realizing the objectives of these initiatives.

The IAEA plays an active part in helping the international community achieve the 17 SDGs. It helps countries to use nuclear and isotopic techniques and thereby contribute directly to attaining nine of the 17 Goals. Also in this connection, the IAEA held in 2016 a Scientific Forum with the theme “Nuclear Technology for the Sustainable Development Goals”. During the Scientific Forum, panellists agreed that combatting climate change would be difficult without the expansion of nuclear energy. They also emphasized the large scale demand for low carbon electricity, and that nuclear power capacity had to be increased to meet this demand.

In order to respond to those requests and to further strength international cooperation among the member states and global community, the INPRO Steering Committee, at its 25h meeting in November 2016, endorsed the organization of an INPRO Dialogue Forum on the Potential of Nuclear Energy to Support the Sustainable Development Goals, Including Climate Change Mitigation.

The objective of this dialogue forum is to familiarize Member States with the role of nuclear energy systems in achieving the United Nations SDGs, including support for actions to mitigate climate change. The Dialogue Forum will support INPRO Member States with better understanding of the IAEA’s present activities and services directly related to these objectives, such as plant life management models and services, the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review service,

construction review service, Nuclear Energy System Assessments using the INPRO methodology, energy planning tools, technology support tools, etc..

It will also be a very precious opportunity for us to identify the Member States' interests in potential IAEA actions to support them in developing their national programmes to achieve the SDGs and address the challenges of mitigating climate change.

For technology holders and newcomer countries, this meeting will provide a forum to exchange information on national and international nuclear energy system related programmes relevant to the SDGs and climate change mitigation.

The 14th INPRO Dialogue Forum will be a good opportunity to discuss what role nuclear power currently plays, how nuclear power may contribute in the future, and how to form a broader consensus on the role of nuclear power in meeting the SDGs, including climate change mitigation.

I wish you all a successful meeting and a very pleasant and enjoyable stay in Vienna.

Now I declare the 14th INPRO Dialogue Forum open and turn the meeting into hands of the Chairperson and Scientific Secretaries.