

Statement by Ms Ana María Cetto, DDG-TC

at the INPRO Dialogue Forum on Nuclear Energy Innovations: Multilateral Approaches to Sustainable Nuclear Energy Deployment-Institutional Challenges

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Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

I am delighted to address you this morning, as the latest INPRO Dialogue Forum on Nuclear Energy Innovations draws to a close. INPRO celebrated its tenth anniversary at the General Conference this September, and I believe that the Dialogue Forum must stand as one of the core achievements of the past decade. It successfully brings together nuclear technology holders and technology users to ensure that future technical and institutional innovations meet the expectations of both. In the area of technical cooperation, we are aware of the gulf that can sometimes yawn between research and the application of scientific knowledge for specific ends, and I personally regard the Dialogue Forum as a significant mechanism to bridge this gap.

This Dialogue brought together 46 participants from 33 countries, a level of attendance that continues to reflect the high degree of interest in the topics that the Forum addresses. The meeting, focusing on multilateral approaches to sustainable nuclear energy deployment, recognized the global aspect of nuclear energy, and highlighted the many needs for multilateral cooperation. You have participated in sessions on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, to new nuclear power programmes, to safety, licensing and regulation, to financing issues, and to prototypes and demonstration of innovative technologies. I understand that the presentations have been very useful in highlighting the challenges in each area, and in underscoring the need for continued and expanded cooperation.

The panel discussions which followed each session have been wide-ranging and constructive. In the IAEA, we believe that multilateral cooperation is becoming steadily more important as more and more countries express interest in introducing nuclear power, and come to the IAEA for assistance. You yourselves have raised the necessity of optimizing the use of all available resources worldwide. I couldn't agree more. Multilateral cooperation is an important tool to make the best use of resources, be these human, natural or infrastructural, to start or expand a successful nuclear programme.

The Dialogue has stressed the importance of cooperation in a number of particular areas: in ensuring security of supply of nuclear fuel, for example, and the best way to manage the back end of the fuel cycle. You've also highlighted safety. Expertise from Member States with established nuclear programmes helps to bring newcomer states up to speed with safety infrastructure needs. Through the technical cooperation programme, the IAEA provides extensive support to newcomers, and we are well aware of the benefits of sharing information and expertise between more and less technologically advanced countries. Safety, as you have so rightly identified, is an area where experienced Member States have a great deal of expertise to share, and where it is vital that newcomer States benefit.

Cooperation in the use of infrastructure has also been raised, particularly with regard to the sharing of resources, as well as in technology innovation, to make better use of R&D expertise worldwide. Again, our experience in the technical cooperation programme reinforces this point. Time and again, we have seen the positive results that can be achieved by sending a fellow to an institution in a neighbouring country, or by planning activities at the regional level to best leverage available resources. The situation is no different in nuclear power than in any of the other areas in which the technical cooperation programme provides support, and I am happy to see it highlighted here. Finally, I note that you have also mentioned the importance of cooperation in financing high-capital projects like nuclear power plants. Here the perspectives of both technology holders and technology users will have undoubtedly enriched and strengthened common understanding on the challenges inherent in this area.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have had the privilege of addressing the INPRO Dialogue Forum on several occasions. This will be my last, as my time with the IAEA is coming to an end. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to follow the Forum's progress. I am convinced that if nuclear power is going to contribute to meeting world energy demand in a sustainable manner, multilateral cooperation, as embodied in this meeting room, is essential. It can be challenging to bring together countries and institutes, but our own experience in fora like the INPRO Dialogue Forum demonstrates how this cooperation can be managed, and also, how well coordinated communication around a specific target is essential to progress. I have no doubt that the results from this workshop will help to define future projects and programmes to address the challenge of multilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable nuclear energy deployment.

Thank you.