

**21st INPRO Dialogue Forum  
on Small Modular Reactor Projects and Technologies  
to Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

28 August - 1 September 2023,  
Rosatom Technical Academy, St Petersburg, Russian Federation

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**IAEA**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

Thank you, Mr **Khammar Mrabit** (Main chair), **Pavel Ptitsyn** (PE Science and Innovations), **Sergei Lukovnikov** (Rostechnadzor), and **Viktor Mazepov** (Rosatom Technical Academy),

Dear colleagues, distinguished speakers, ladies, and gentlemen,

Firstly, on behalf of the IAEA and the Department of NE, I would like to express a warm welcome to all participants of the 21st INPRO Dialogue Forum in St. Petersburg, dedicated to the important topic of Small Modular Reactor (SMR) projects and Technologies that can support the UN sustainable development goals. It is an honour to have all of you gathered here today, as we continue our journey towards fostering innovation and collaboration in the field of nuclear energy.

We extend our sincere thanks to our partners in the Russian Federation for spearheading the program for this Dialogue Forum in collaboration with INPRO and our Member States. This week should be filled with dynamic discussions and challenges related to deployment of SMRs, specifically geared towards fostering nuclear energy's sustainable development.

I express heartfelt gratitude to all our distinguished speakers for joining us this week and sharing their valuable experiences and insights. Your expertise and wisdom will undoubtedly help us forge strong and fruitful partnerships, propelling us towards a sustainable future that encompasses nuclear energy.

Since its inception in 2000, INPRO's mission is to enhance public acceptance of sustainable nuclear energy, and to ensure nuclear energy remains available to contribute to meeting global energy needs through the next century. Institutional innovations geared towards the sustainability of nuclear energy systems remains at the heart of INPRO's endeavours. We take pride in our cross-cutting and forward-looking approach, collaborating across Agency departments and programs to achieve collective success in this vital mission.

INPRO pioneered hosting Dialogue Forums, and this marks our 21st. These forums are instrumental in building partnerships, raising critical issues, and providing a conducive environment for creative and practical solutions. In the past, these dialogue forums revolved around crucial nuclear energy topics, such as innovative reactor concepts, supply chains, non-electric applications, and capacity-building for sustainable development. We also delved into the crucial aspects of building partnerships and public acceptance.

This Dialogue Forum serves as a platform where nuclear technology holders, users, and other stakeholders from IAEA Member States come together to engage in meaningful discussions regarding the development and deployment of SMRs; SMRs emerge as a pivotal technology in advancing UN Sustainable Development Goals.

SMRs offer a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels and have the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the carbon footprint, thereby fostering a more sustainable and resilient future for the next generations. SMRs offer cost-effective, flexible, and safer nuclear energy solutions, with potential for integration with renewables, and inclusion of non-electric applications; thus, SMRs may have the promise of surpassing contributions in complement to large conventional nuclear reactors.

That is why in 2021, IAEA DG R. Grossi created the Flagship initiative called the Agency-wide IAEA SMR Platform as a one-stop shop in delivering services regarding SMRs to our MSs, gathering the efforts of five Departments in a coordinated manner. In 2022 another related Flagship project was launched = the Nuclear Harmonisation and Standardisation Initiative (NHSI) to accelerate the safe and secure deployment of SMRs. So you can see that we are very active in this field.

We must continue to strive to meet all the UN sustainable development goals, including goals in gender parity and equality. Gender equality is a goal that can help abolish poverty, create equal economies, fairer societies, and happier families for men, women, and children. We need to engage men, leaders and managers in this directive, in expanding the inclusion of women, which is a smart investment in our future. Women bring a unique perspective in helping promote nuclear energy programs, which will help the betterment of all society. At the IAEA DG Grossi launched two dedicated flagship programmes to support career development of women, which will help with the gender balance at these types of meetings. The latest one launched on 8 March 2023, is the Lise Meitner Programme, which is for early and mid-career women professionals to boost women career development in the nuclear energy field, through management and leadership training, building relationships and a network of professionals, and professional visits to nuclear facilities. And to increase the number of women in the nuclear field, the IAEA has the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP), which supports an inclusive workforce of both men and women to contribute to and drive global scientific and technological innovation. We are in the 4th year of MSCFP with application up to end Sept, so please encourage female students to apply in your home countries..

We hope participants will establish partnerships during this Dialogue Forum and become familiar with INPRO's many methods and tools for nuclear energy scenario modelling and sustainability assessments. INPRO's tools and services include e-learning activities, in-person schools, interactions with universities around the world, as well as new collaborative projects with our Member States. INPRO recently launched an Advisory Service to support Member States in planning and implementing nuclear energy systems, including those with SMRs.

Moreover, we encourage your active engagement with INPRO in our ongoing innovative tasks, including case studies on global and regional scenarios, nuclear-hydrogen systems, fusion energy, transportable nuclear reactors, and nuclear energy system assessments. INPRO focuses on the drivers and institutional, economic, and legal impediments for deployment of innovative energy systems' these initiatives will contribute to advancing implementation of nuclear energy.

Before concluding let me also extend my thanks to the Scientific Secretaries, Mr Sung Soo Kim, Maxim Gladyshev and Hadid Subki for their preparatory works to make this DF successful

In conclusion, we are thrilled about the opportunities that lie ahead for all of you to come together, build relationships, and share your insightful ideas. I wish you all a productive and engaging event, and I eagerly look forward to learning about the outcomes of this dialogue forum.

Thank you.