

**25th INPRO Dialogue Forum on Nuclear Energy Development in
Embarking Countries**

Opening Remarks (recorded)

Mikhail Chudakov

Deputy Director General

Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy



Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

Welcome to the opening of this special 25th edition of the INPRO Dialogue Forum. I'm grateful for the opportunity to address you even if only virtually, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to our hosts in Kenya for their outstanding efforts in organizing this important event. Your proactive engagement is deeply appreciated.

These are exciting times for nuclear power. Since COP28, two years ago, we have witnessed an unprecedented global recognition of the need to expand global nuclear energy capacity. The momentum continues to build, with increasing efforts to unlock financing, streamline deployment, and integrate nuclear energy into broader clean energy strategies.

The IAEA's latest projections show that global nuclear capacity could grow by 2.6 times the 2024 level by 2050. Africa's outlook is especially promising, with nuclear generating capacity projected to triple by 2030 in the high case scenario. These figures reflect not only expansion by established operating countries but also the growing interest and commitment from newcomer nations – many of them here in Africa.

Since 2010, INPRO has hosted 24 Dialogue Forums to foster partnerships, highlight key issues, and create an environment conducive to innovative solutions. This 25th forum – the first held in Africa – is especially timely. The region holds immense potential and faces increasing demand for clean energy, including nuclear power.

This week you will engage in discussions that are not only technical but also strategic. The Forum provides a platform for nuclear technology holders, users and stakeholders to explore long-term strategies for nuclear energy development. Strategic planning is essential – not just for deployment, but for ensuring sustainability, safety and public trust. It involves aligning national energy goals with infrastructure development, regulatory frameworks, human capacity, and stakeholder engagement.

Embarking on a nuclear power programme is a complex, long-term commitment. It requires careful planning across multiple dimensions – from fuel cycle management to financing, from public communication to international cooperation. States with operating experience must continue to share their insights and lessons learned to help these newcomers navigate this journey successfully. Advancement and innovations in nuclear reactor and fuel cycle technologies as well as institutional arrangements, as pursued by technology holder countries, are crucial for the future of nuclear energy – which will benefit embarking countries.

In this context, the IAEA's International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles - INPRO was established to help ensure that nuclear energy remains available to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond in a sustainable manner. INPRO provides a comprehensive framework and methodology for assessing nuclear energy systems, both nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, holistically — covering economics, safety, proliferation resistance, environmental impacts, waste management, and infrastructure.

The INPRO methodology supports Member States in strategic planning by helping them evaluate their national nuclear energy strategies and identify areas for improvement or innovation. It encourages long-term thinking and collaboration, and it is particularly valuable for newcomer countries seeking to build robust, future-ready nuclear programmes. INPRO also helps Member States explore the role of nuclear energy in a wide deployment of clean energy sources and contributed to the IAEA report on clean energy transition from coal to nuclear presented at the recent G20 meeting in South Africa.

This week's agenda delves into these critical areas. Today's plenary sessions will explore opportunities and challenges in nuclear energy for embarking countries, with a focus on strategic planning and stakeholder engagement. Tomorrow you will examine capacity building and the potential of small modular reactors (SMRs). Throughout the week Member State experiences will be highlighted, culminating in a technical tour of the Olkaria Geothermal Power Station.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Your participation in this Dialogue Forum is a testament to your commitment to shaping a sustainable energy future. I extend my sincere appreciation to all of you, and especially to our gracious hosts, Minister of Energy Opiyo Wandayi, Nuclear Power and Energy Agency Board Chairperson Lawrence Gumbe and Chief Executive Officer of the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency Justus Wabuyabo and their dedicated teams.

Let this week be a catalyst for progress. May your discussions lead to actionable recommendations and strengthened partnerships that support the strategic, sustainable development of nuclear energy.

I wish you a productive and inspiring week ahead.

Thank you.