

IAEA STATEMENT

**First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th
International Conference on Financing for Development**

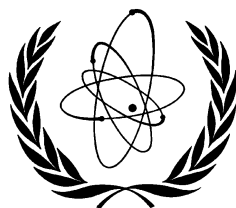
**Multi-stakeholder round table 8: Science, technology,
innovation and capacity-building**

Addis Ababa

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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Chairperson, Colleagues,

Science, technology and innovation (STI) is the cornerstone of progress and prosperity. STI drives economic growth, enhances productivity, and addresses global challenges. STI is not just an enabler for sustainable development, it is the engine that powers it.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is committed to harnessing the power of STI through the provision of technology transfer and capacity building in areas where nuclear science, technology and applications can make a difference, in areas such as health, bringing access to cancer care to all, including to underprivileged communities; food production, increasing crop resilience to climate change; energy transition, through energy planning; to investing in youth and women by supporting access to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

STI provides valuable data for decision making, as well as solutions to address pressing global challenges. But there is more: we believe STI to be a catalyser of interdisciplinary collaborations and cross-sectorial dialogue, which are critical factors towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the establishment and enhancement of partnerships with Member States, international organizations, academia, development financial institutions and private sector, the IAEA intends to continue to put its expertise and knowledge to the service of the global community.

With this in mind, the IAEA has identified health, food security, and energy transition as three areas where an integrated and inclusive multistakeholder approach can best accelerate progress leading to significant, lasting impact.

Three dedicated flagship initiatives, open to partnerships and scaling up, have thus been launched:

- Rays of Hope, to improve cancer care and control;
- Atoms4Food, to enhance food safety and food security;
- Atom4NetZero, to contribute charting countries towards a sustainable energy future that integrates innovative energy systems.

We also strongly believe that, for STI to reach its full potential, it must be inclusive, and that only equitable participation leads to more effective and comprehensive solutions to global challenges. With the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship and with the Lise Meitner Programme, aimed to support women in STEM, the IAEA is signalling its intention to invest in a future where no talent is wasted, and where every voice contributes to the collective progress.

To power our sustainable future, STI needs resources, resources that ought to be effectively and efficiently allocated to ensure the delivery of solutions with the best potential for impact.

Through continuous resource mobilisation efforts and partnering with Member States, UN system organisations, such as FAO, multilateral development banks, like IsDB and ADB, and the private sector, the IAEA works tirelessly to secure the financial resources needed to carry out its initiatives. We believe that more can be done, leveraging financial support from different sources as well as ensuring inclusive and integrated planning efforts, that consider as part of the solutions all the different forms of STI.

Let's continue harnessing the STI potential by working together, as this is the only way to address the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century.

I thank you.