

IAEA STATEMENT

4th International Conference on Small Islands Developing States 2024

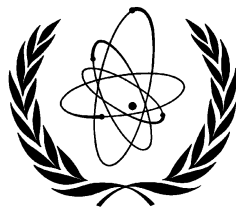
General Debate

Antigua

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Liu Hua,

**Deputy Director General, Head of the Department of
Technical Cooperation**



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Chairperson, Colleagues,

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has long recognised the urgent need to assist Small Islands Developing States in building their capacity to address their challenges and vulnerabilities in areas such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, natural disasters, health system strengthening, and access to sustainable energy sources.

To date, through the implementation of its Technical Cooperation Programme, the IAEA has provided support to 26 SIDS, harnessing the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology to help them in their efforts to reach their SDG targets.

Today, we want to strongly reaffirm our promise towards SIDS: the IAEA is committing EUR 13,7 million over the period 2024-2025 for technical cooperation projects aimed to strengthen radiation medicine services, address childhood obesity, monitor and mitigate the impact of climate change on the marine ecosystems, enhance agriculture, water and soil management in SIDS. We want to unlock the full potential of our innovative solutions and concretely help building a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future for the SIDS.

These projects will be implemented under the umbrella of the IAEA flagship initiatives such as NUTEC, to address the global challenge of plastic pollution, ZODIAC, to support capacity and preparedness for outbreaks and pandemics, Rays of Hope, to develop cancer care capacity, and most recently Atoms4Food, to strengthen food safety and security, which the SIDS have also actively joined over the past years.

We consider the IAEA commitment as “seed funds”, instrumental for the achievement of results that could be greater and even more sustainable if we can join forces, mobilise more resources, and leverage the opportunities offered by our innovative solutions.

At this point in time, we believe this is not just a moral imperative, but a strict, strategic necessity, for a more equitable and prosperous world for all.

I thank you.