



VIENNA CHAPTER

REMARKS AT G-77 CEREMONY BY MR. Y. AMANO, DIRECTOR GENERAL IAEA ON 17 FEBRUARY 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for inviting me to this ceremony marking the handover of the chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.

I congratulate Ambassador Latorre of Chile on assuming the chairmanship.

And I thank the outgoing Chair, Ambassador Yparraguirre of The Philippines, for her successful term of office. I have greatly valued her cooperation and support.

I recently visited a number of G-77 nations in Asia.

Each country's situation is, of course, different. But one thing they all have in common is a desire to make the best use of modern science and technology – including nuclear science and technology – to improve the lives of their people.

As I have said many times, the Agency's work to make nuclear technologies available for development is as important as other areas of our mandate, such as non-proliferation. In many ways I regard our mandate now as Atoms for Peace and Development.

We have an important role to play in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and of the post-2015 development agenda.

I am working to gain recognition of the IAEA as a unique stakeholder which promotes development through the use of nuclear technology.

Last year, in addition to implementing our regular TC programme, we provided assistance to Ebola-affected countries in West Africa.

We continued to develop our activities in the cancer field, including by reorganising the PACT office.

And we launched the ReNuAL project.

ReNuAL is one of the most important projects ever undertaken by the Agency. The laboratories provide assistance to almost all Member States and are of special importance to developing countries.

If the ReNuAL project is to remain on schedule, it is imperative that the necessary extrabudgetary funding is received soon so that construction can begin in the next few months.

The enthusiastic support of the G-77 countries can play an important part in ensuring the success of the project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Funding generally will remain a problem for the Agency in the coming years.

As I said at my New Year reception last month, some real budget growth will be essential in the coming biennium if we are to continue to meet the expectations of you, our Member States.

We, for our part, will continue to work hard to deliver concrete results that make a real difference to the lives of the people of the world, in the coming year and beyond.

Let me conclude by once again thanking Ambassador Yparraguire, and congratulating Ambassador Latorre on taking on the chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.

The G77 remains an important partner for the Agency, and I look forward to working closely with you over the coming months.

Thank you.