

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Fellow participants

It is my pleasure to join you for this timely and educational event. My sincere thanks to Wilton Park, Argonne National Laboratory and the Governments

globalized and networked planet. This is evident in the fine work being done by the International Atomic Energy Agency to help defeat the pandemic.

This conference and the two predecessors in Nigeria and South Africa have explored many of the ground-breaking ways in which advances in nuclear science is driving fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in health, agriculture and water management, climate change and environmental protection. These achievements should be advertised to the widest possible audience to ensure the widest possible adoption.

I can think of no better venue for that conversation than the Tenth NPT Review Conference.

I know that the NPT has been discussed at the two prior conferences, so some of you are familiar with its substance and esoterica, but I thought I should provide a quick overview of the Treaty and why peaceful uses is so important to its continued vitality.

The NPT is often described as the “cornerstone” of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime and a pillar of international peace and security. This is due to three fac

Every five years, the NPT holds a Review Conference, the purposes of which are to review its implementation and chart its future course over all three pillars.

Every successful NPT Review Conference outcome has included action items to advance access to peaceful uses, including support to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme. Sadly, the third pillar still often feels overlooked and underdone.

The Tenth NPT Review Conference is an opportunity to remedy this situation.

As President-designate it is not my role to dictate what should comprise any potential outcome from the Review Conference, but it is my responsibility to facilitate an outcome that looks both backwards and to the future and that is balanced across all three of the NPT's pillars: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

resources. This could be an area on which the Review Conference chooses to focus.

Third, the question of how the NPT and its States Parties can strengthen cooperation between regions and between subregional organizations could be considered by the Review Conference. Enhanced cooperation will help fuel self-reliance and sustainability.

Fourth, the Conference could consider how to strengthen the IAEA's facilitation of peaceful uses, broaden its impact and ensure its long-term security, so that all who need to derive its benefits are able to do so.

In the coming months I will continue to work to engage the broadest constituency possible in dialogue and support for the NPT going forward. I hope to continue the informal interactions like this and to continue to raise awareness in all governments of the opportunities that are underpinned by the Treaty.

Many countries have not fully taken advantage of the opportunities for technological development and scientific training that they are entitled to as parties to the NPT who fulfill their international obligations fully.

It is important that governments understand where nuclear science and technology can make concrete contributions to meet the national sustainable development goals and support inter-regional and extra-regional cooperation.