

# IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency  
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique  
Международный Атомный Энергетический Орган  
3HeprMM Organismo Internacional de Energia Atómica

*Atoms For Peace*

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Statement by Werner BURKART  
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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and on my own behalf, it is a proud moment for me to address this second Ministerial Meeting for ITER, and to acknowledge the achievements of the European Union, People's Republic of China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and USA, the 6 ITER partners. They are opening a new, international chapter in nuclear sciences and applications. The signing of the joint declaration by the representatives of the parties to the ITER negotiations is the culmination of and recognizes the worldwide endeavours in fusion science and technology development in the direction of fusion use for energy production. The Agency is pleased to have assisted in fusion efforts for the last 15 years when ITER has been passing to this important event of engineering implementation, and also during the recent complex negotiations. The IAEA offers its continuing support for the forthcoming transition period. Having a mandate to advance both nuclear science and energy development to further human peace and prosperity, we hope to be helpful in constructively expanding the circle of talent that contributes to, and benefits from ITER's progress. We stand ready to provide a link to the many other member States who may wish to become part of this endeavour.

The milestones reached on route to today have other auspicious antecedents. An overall budgetary agreement was achieved late in 2003, 100 years after the first powered flight. Fusion has the potential for socio-economic progress as great as air travel and transport. This final step, here in Moscow, is achieved on the centenary of the magic year of physics, 100 years after Einstein's publications in 1905, which opened the door to harness the energy of the atom.

It is a further nuclear coincidence that this event is taking place in Moscow, Russia. Our hosts, the Russian Federation, can be proud of yet another memorable moment in nuclear history. Russia is the home of the world's first power producing fission reactor, at Obninsk, 51 years ago. Also, the first Tokamak experimental design, which can be seen as the precursor of ITER, was built in this country.

Much work lies ahead, and it will challenge our scientists and engineers as did the dawn of the nuclear fission age. The Agency is confident that those challenges will be met with success, and sends its best wishes to the ITER community worldwide in their efforts towards harnessing fusion for sustainable development.