

**H.E. Sadiq Marafi, Ambassador of Kuwait in Vienna and
Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations-
Closing Remarks on the
Symposium on Nuclear Applications for Sustainable Development
in GCC Member States
16 February 2016**

- The symposium has been very useful in developing further common understanding on what nuclear science and technology can do for our human welfare and social and economic development, and for the advancements of applied sciences in various areas contributing to sustainable development.

- I believe everybody will agree with me that such a great event, the first one of its nature bringing together eminent scientists and policy makers from within the region, cannot be concluded just with wishes or generic recommendations. We need to envisage concrete follow up actions that are commensurate with the level of local and global challenges, meet our expectations, and pave the way for a sustained collaboration and win-win partnerships among GCC countries, on one hand and on the other hand between GCC countries and the IAEA.

Such steps could include:

-Targeted strengthening of laboratory capacity in the region

1. The use in a regional perspective of selected national facilities for training and research will help maximize the utilization of available infrastructure and expertise, thereby fostering the IAEA concept of TCDC and contributing to achieving self-reliance in peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the region. The modalities could include establishing additional Collaborating Centers and regional resource centers that address the needs of the region.

2. Identifying the capacity areas of the IAEA laboratories that are of director levels to the most significant needs of GCC member states and which should be reinforced in the short and medium term.
3. Identifying one or two areas for the development of new regional projects dedicated to GCC member states to be implemented collectively in the region during the forthcoming IAEA programming cycle for 2018-2019.
4. To agree to convene every two years such a symposium in the region.
5. To prepare at the end of the symposium a report capturing all the salient points of the symposium and the steps for the way forward.