

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

29 November 2024

Dear Mr Björkroth,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the event “Nuclear Communities and Mayors in Focus” which will take place during the first-ever *IAEA International Conference on Stakeholder Engagement for Nuclear Power Programmes*, to be held from 26 to 30 May 2025 in Vienna, Austria.

In the evolving energy landscape, nuclear power is increasingly recognized as a key solution for global decarbonization and sustainable development. The deployment of advanced nuclear reactor designs, including small modular reactors, offers exciting opportunities, while bringing to the forefront considerations related to economics, infrastructure development, safety and public acceptance. Hence, effective stakeholder engagement is crucial to the success of nuclear power programmes and local communities play a pivotal role in this effort.

As hosts of nuclear facilities, local communities bear a shared responsibility to nurture, valorise and protect these sites and the surrounding environment for the benefit of future generations. It is therefore essential that local communities have a meaningful place at the table, nationally and internationally, alongside with other stakeholders such as government representatives, regulators, end users and industry. Such inclusion ensures that nuclear power projects, including its fuel cycle and radioactive waste management, are aligned with public interests and long-term sustainability goals, fostering trust and a shared sense of purpose.

The “Nuclear Communities and Mayors in Focus” event on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 will serve as a unique platform for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas among municipal leaders from around the world. Together, we will explore experiences, challenges and lessons learned in engaging local communities for the implementation of nuclear power projects. The event also aims to deepen global understanding of the diverse perspectives, concerns and interests of local stakeholders involved in nuclear power programmes.

Yours sincerely,



Rafael Mariano Grossi

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cc: Permanent Mission