September, 14

Opening Remarks – Ms. Khadija Bendam
Chair, International Nuclear Societies Council (INSC)

Distinguished representatives, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to join you today for this important side event, **"Atoms for SDGs: Global Sharing of Nuclear Research Infrastructure."**

On behalf of the **International Nuclear Societies Council**, I would like to warmly thank the Chinese Nuclear Society and all the institutions involved in this initiative for bringing us together around such an important and timely topic.

The INSC, established in 1990, brings together nuclear societies from around the world, united by a commitment to the peaceful development and utilization of nuclear science and technology.

One of our fundamental purposes is to foster **cooperation, communication and knowledge exchange among nuclear societies** and to strengthen our collective contribution to the global nuclear community.

It is therefore a particular honour for the INSC to be a founding member of this important initiative, reflecting our strong commitment to advancing international cooperation in nuclear science and technology.

Nuclear research infrastructure is not simply a collection of laboratories, reactors or experimental facilities. **It is an enabler of knowledge, innovation, capacity building and international cooperation.**

When such infrastructure is accessible to researchers, students and institutions across borders, we create opportunities for joint research, accelerate scientific progress and help develop the next generation of nuclear professionals.

This approach also strongly reflects the spirit of the **Sustainable Development Goals**, including **SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 13 – Climate Action.**

But achieving these objectives requires more than technology. It requires **people, partnerships and cooperation**.

As nuclear societies, we have an important role to play in building these bridges.

The proposed **International Nuclear Research Infrastructure Organization, or INRIO**, represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen international scientific collaboration and connect existing capabilities with researchers and institutions that can benefit from them.

From the perspective of the INSC, we strongly welcome initiatives that promote **open, inclusive and mutually beneficial cooperation**, while respecting the principles of peaceful uses, scientific excellence and professional responsibility.

Ultimately, success will depend on our ability to move from infrastructure sharing to **meaningful collaboration**—sharing knowledge, developing people, conducting joint research and creating lasting partnerships.

Let us work together to make nuclear research infrastructure not only more accessible, but also a stronger foundation for **international cooperation and sustainable development.**

I congratulate the Chinese Nuclear Society and its partners on this important initiative, and I look forward to seeing INRIO contribute to the global nuclear community.

Thank you very much.