"Every day, Member States are confronted with the need for relevant information and quick access to nuclear expertise that they can rely on. In that context, networks are a key instrument to gather professionals around a common subject of interest and allow them to share their experience and to cooperate.

To assist our Member States in finding competent expertise, the IAEA has been developing the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network. The GNSSN is a key instrument to help interconnect professionals to share information and knowledge. The GNSSN's international reach gives Member States worldwide access to experts from other regions and other countries, allowing them to obtain and share their knowledge and expertise in specific fields. GNSSN Networks also encourage cooperation and coordination among their members.

As more and more experts and decision makers connect through the GNSSN gateway, they bring with them valuable expertise to exponentially grow the various knowledge bases. The size of the network then becomes more than the sum of its parts, providing growth and capacity building opportunities to the world-wide nuclear community.

This is one of the very effective ways IAEA can assist Member States in strengthening the global nuclear safety and security framework.

I would like to take a moment here to thank those countries who have contributed with their human and financial resources to assist **GNSSN** grow into the worldwide gateway to nuclear safety and security knowledge and expertise, and to leave you with this reminder: These networks are driven by Member States and it is essential that stakeholders take ownership and leadership in the further development of the GNSSN. With that in mind, I encourage you to continue connecting, collaborating and communicating through the GNSSN.