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Foreword

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Foreword

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The commitment to achieving nuclear security globally needs the efforts of both men and women, as diversity and gender equality bring benefits to all fields. However, women are underrepresented in nuclear security, as well as in the nuclear field in general, so it is important to understand and tackle the barriers that women can face to joining and thriving in the field, and I believe this special issue of the *International Journal of Nuclear Security* (IJNS) on Women in Nuclear Security will help in this regard.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) launched the Women in Nuclear Security Initiative – WINSI – in March 2021 to support our Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi’s vision to establishing the IAEA as a leading global voice for gender equality in the nuclear field. The initiative’s mission is to support the achievement of gender equality in nuclear security both within the IAEA’s Division of Nuclear Security and the global community of practice. I hope that through this important initiative, we can learn from the experiences of women from the Agency and Member States and contribute to promoting and strengthening the involvement of women in nuclear security worldwide.

WINSI organizes events to raise awareness about the Agency’s program on nuclear security as well as the Agency’s work on gender equality among policy makers, professionals, academia, and NGOs.

Achieving gender equality in nuclear security needs the efforts of everyone involved in this sector. Thanks to IJNS for this idea of publishing this special issue on Women in Nuclear Security. This is a great opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of women experts and institutions in nuclear security and to learn from their experiences.