



**Jubiläumsfeier 100 Jahre Labor Spiez  
Redesignierung Labor Spiez als  
Collaborating Centre der IAEA  
23. Oktober 2025**

**Bundesrat Martin Pfister**

**Vorsteher des Eidgenössischen Departements für  
Verteidigung, Bevölkerungsschutz und Sport**

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Director General,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to meet with you today. The International Atomic Energy Agency plays an indispensable role in maintaining global peace and security. Your work helps to ensure that nuclear technology is used only for peaceful purposes — a mission as vital today as ever.

In a world of growing geopolitical tensions, the risk of nuclear weapons use cannot be ignored. The IAEA's efforts to strengthen safeguards and verification are crucial to preventing proliferation and building trust among nations.

Equally important is your work to ensure the safe operation of nuclear power plants and to prevent accidents. Incidents such as Fukushima remind us that nuclear accidents can have serious humanitarian, environmental, and economic impacts.



Ensuring nuclear safety is a major concern and an important interest for Switzerland. We are deeply committed to supporting this cause at the international level.

I am therefore particularly proud that Spiez Laboratory belongs to my Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), and that, as head of the DDPS, I have the honour of receiving this plaque for the designating of Spiez Laboratory as an IAEA Collaborating Centre.

Dear Director Cadisch: the honour belongs to you and your colleagues at Spiez Laboratory. I am very proud that Switzerland and the DDPS host such an internationally recognised institute for NBC protection.

Europe's — and therefore Switzerland's — security is more at risk than it has been for decades. Crises and conflicts are moving closer to our borders, and with them, the risks in NBC protection are also growing. Spiez Laboratory will continue to play a key role in addressing these challenges. Your contribution to our security is more important today than ever before.