



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE IAEA TACC MEETING, 24-26 NOVEMBER 2008, DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SHAHBAZ, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

Agenda item 2: Technical Cooperation: The Agency's proposed programme for 2009-2011

Madam Chair,

Allow me, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to thank the Director-General for issuing the Agency's Proposed Programme for 2009-2011. The Group wishes to extend you its warm congratulations on your assumption of duties as Chairperson of the Board of Governors. We are fully confident that under your able guidance the meeting will achieve significant results in advancing the Agency's technical cooperation programme. The Group wishes to thank the DDG for Technical Cooperation, Ms. Ana María Cetto, for presenting this agenda item and the TC Department for preparing the relevant documents as well as for the briefings on issues related to this meeting.

The Group wishes to reiterate the great importance it attaches to the Agency's technical cooperation activities. As stipulated in Article II of the Statute, these activities are the main statutory vehicles for transferring nuclear technology to developing countries for their socio-economic development. The Group strongly emphasizes that the promotion of peaceful applications of atomic energy constitutes a fundamental element of the statutory activities of the Agency and as highlighted in INFCIRC/267, the provision of the technical assistance constitutes a major, high-priority function of the Agency, and responsibility for its success devolves on all Departments of the Secretariat.

Such a goal cannot be achieved if we fail to ensure that the Agency's resources for technical co-operation activities are sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) as called for by the General Conference resolutions, and in particular Operative Paragraph 3 of resolution GC(52)/RES/11 that "Requests the Secretariat to continue to work, in consultation with Member States, toward establishing means, including mechanisms, that would achieve the goal of making TC resources sufficient, assured and predictable SAP".

The 52nd IAEA General Conference approved the TCF target at US\$ 85 million for 2009. In this connection, it is important that Member States contribute their TCF target shares in full and in a timely manner.

The Group firmly believes, as emphasized in the Agency's guidelines contained in INFCIRC/267 that the Agency's resources for technical assistance shall continue to be allocated primarily to meet the needs of developing countries. In this connection, the Group supports all initiatives that contribute to achieving these objectives in all developing Member States through the established programmatic approach.

Regarding the Technical Cooperation Programme for 2009-2011, the Group remains confident that the Secretariat has developed the TC programme in a professional, impartial and non-discriminatory manner, following a well-established process, based on Member States' needs, in line with the Agency's Statute and in accordance with the decisions of its policy making organs. It is fundamental for the credibility of the Agency that technical cooperation assistance as stipulated in Article III C of the Agency's Statute is not subject to any political, economic, military or other conditions incompatible with the provisions of the Agency's Statute.

Taking into account that the Secretariat is making an effort to make the PCMF user-friendly, the Group would like to stress that this platform shall be applied strictly to enhance transparency among national

stakeholders and be accessible only to relevant project counterparts. The Group also emphasizes that all measures taken in this regard should preserve and enhance the ownership of technical cooperation projects by developing Member States.

Regarding the Country Programme Framework (CPF), which the Secretariat may use as part of the overall guidance for the programming process, the Group would like to emphasize that this is a non-legally binding document and is also subject to revisions as Member States' priorities evolve. Hence, the CPF should not be used as a basis for restricting Member States' requests for technical support, nor should it be a definitive reference for approval of Member States' TC projects. The Group thus strongly believes that the application of the CPF should be undertaken with the necessary flexibility so as to allow the Secretariat to take into account specific situations in various Member States and continue to respond to the needs and priorities defined by recipient Member States. The Group would like to emphasize that it should be within the sole discretion of concerned Member States to provide access to information contained in its CPF to other parties.

The Group believes that the supply of equipment is related to the requirements of the TC projects to meet the needs of developing Member States and is therefore an essential component of the TC programme.

The Group believes that any interference by Member States in the Agency's technical activities and technical cooperation programme or attempts to micro-manage the work of the Secretariat, would have a negative impact on the impartiality of their professional activities. The Group and a majority of other Member States have reiterated this concern on numerous occasions. The Group believes that the technical cooperation programme proposed by the Secretariat to Member States, and the projects associated to it, should not be blocked, delayed or otherwise hindered on the basis of political motivations or mere allegations. The Group believes that any political conditions aiming at the TC projects under the auspices of the IAEA shall weaken the Agency's constructive role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thus undermining the credibility of the IAEA.

The Group would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for having formulated the TC programme in accordance with the Agency's Statute and the guiding principles as contained in INFCIRC/267, which ensures that the provision of the technical assistance, and that the projects are not in violation of any of the decisions of the Agency's Policy-Making Organs or any relevant UN Security Council resolution. The Group strongly believes that the present guidelines and criteria (INFCIRC/267) for the screening of TC project proposals, programme implementation and subsequent evaluation are sufficient and effective, and there is no merit in having additional mechanisms for fulfilling the above objectives.

The G77 and China recommends that this Committee forwards the proposed programme as contained in document GOV/2008/47 and its Addenda to the Board of Governors for its approval.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities

Madam Chair,

The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Mr. Tijani Chaouch Bouraoui, Acting Director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), for presenting the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2008, as contained in document GOV/2008/56.

The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to the regular evaluation of the implementation of the Agency's TC activities. The Group believes that such evaluations constitute an effective means to enhance the Agency's capability to fully achieve the TC ultimate goals of transferring nuclear technology for peaceful uses to and promoting socioeconomic development in Member States.

The Group therefore notes with appreciation that the evaluations were conducted in the most comprehensive manner, including extensive fieldwork, with the participation of external evaluators, staff from the Department of Technical Cooperation, other technical departments and various stakeholders from concerned Member States.

As regards the evaluation of projects on sustainable intensification of crop production systems, the Group notes with satisfaction that the report recognizes the relevance of the reviewed projects to recipient countries' overall efforts, and ultimately to the UN endeavors, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Group is however concerned with the finding that the level of awareness of farmers about the projects' existence was in general low, which resulted in insufficient levels of participation and of project ownership by wider farmer communities. In this connection, the Group particularly supports the recommendation that the Secretariat should ensure that the projects' counterparts receive assistance and training on innovative ways of outreach to and sensitization of the projects' target beneficiaries.

On the evaluation of the Country Programme Framework, the Group concurs with the OIOS conclusion that the CPF reflects mutually agreed national development priority areas between States and the Agency that are supported through the technical cooperation activities. The CPF is a voluntary, non-legally binding document that is subject to revisions as concerned Member States priorities evolve. Hence, the CPF should not be used as a basis for restricting Member States' requests for technical support, nor should it be a definitive reference for the approval of Member States TC projects. In this regard the Group reiterates its strong belief that the application of the CPF should be undertaken with enough flexibility so as to allow the Secretariat to take into account specific situations in various Member States and to continue to respond to the needs and priorities defined by recipient Member States. The Group supports the recommendation that dialogue and communication on the CPF process could be enhanced between the Secretariat and Member States. The Group believes that the consultation process should involve only the relevant national stakeholders. It is however, the prerogative of the Member State concerned to decide if any other entities could be involved as well.

With regard to the mechanism for monitoring and assessing project progress, the Group believes this can be built-in through the PCMF platform and therefore it would not be necessary to include it in the CPF process.

As regards the evaluation of thematic planning, the Group is concerned about the recommendation that the report "20/20 Vision for the Future" should provide inputs to a review of the Technical Cooperation Strategy. As stated before, the Group of 77 and China, as a matter of principle, supports every action aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Agency to fulfill its statutory functions, which was the proposed objective of the report of the Commission of Eminent Persons on the Future of the Agency and of its background document, the "20/20 Vision for the Future" report. The Group wishes to recall that neither of the reports constitute documents that emanated through consultations with Member States.

The Group therefore is of the strong view that, despite the fact that both reports may form one among other valid sources for the reflection on the future of the Agency, no action should be inspired by the conclusions or recommendations thereof without prior consultations with Member States. The Group concurs with the OIOS conclusion that thematic planning is carried out with limited involvement of Member States and as a result the awareness and knowledge at Member States level is limited. The Group believes that any tool for identifying services and technologies with special value should be more comprehensive and should involve at all stages the participation of the concerned Member States and of the technical departments as well as the regional divisions of the TC Department.

With these comments, Madam Chair, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2008, as contained in document GOV/2008/56, and requests that this statement be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.