



**Statements of the G-77 and China delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Omar Amar Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt
During the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting
9-13 September 2019**

Agenda Item 3: Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Deputy Director General Juan Carlos Lentijo for his remarks under this agenda item, and commends the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the preparation of document GOV/2019/27-GC(63)/4, as well as for the work carried out between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019, pursuant to the General Conference resolution GC(62)/RES/6. [not to be read]

Madam Chairperson,

2. The Group attaches great importance to nuclear safety, a key element in any nuclear programme. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the States, the Group believes that the Agency plays an essential role in this field, as provided for in Article III of the Statute. The Group reiterates its emphasis that the Agency must retain a central role in nuclear safety, owing to its mandatory functions, its broad membership and its long-standing expertise.

3. The Group also stresses its principled position that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations must not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

4. The Group highlights the importance of maintaining, improving and promoting nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response worldwide. The Group appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts aimed at supporting Member States in sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and information on all aspects of nuclear safety. The Group also welcomes the Agency's activities aimed at supporting nuclear safety infrastructure development in Member States, upon their request. The Group requests the Agency to continue these activities.

5. The Group emphasizes the importance of building and strengthening capacities in all Member States, especially the developing countries. In this regard, the Group appreciates, in particular, the assistance provided by the Agency, upon request, to developing countries operating, expanding or embarking on nuclear power and radiation technology programmes in establishing or enhancing their national safety infrastructure. We value the activities related to building competency in the regulatory functions, improving management for safety and promoting safety culture. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in assisting interested Member States in the development of capacities and technical skills in nuclear safety, as well as in strengthening the regulatory system and infrastructure needed for the development of nuclear energy.

6. The Group notes the importance of incorporation, where appropriate, of lessons learned from the 2011 Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the experience of States in implementing the Action Plan, as well as the observations and lessons contained in the IAEA Fukushima Report and the principles of the Vienna Declaration, into the Agency's programme of work. In this regard, the Group supports the continuation of the Secretariat's cross-departmental activities concerning strengthening nuclear safety.

Madam Chairperson,

7. The Group welcomes the continued assistance provided by the Agency to the activities of regional forums and related networks, including the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) and events focused on strengthening collaboration among national authorities, specialists, international organizations, forums and working groups. The Group requests the Secretariat to further pursue activities aimed at strengthening regional safety forums and related networks, as mandated by the General Conference.

8. The Group commends the Agency for the activities carried out in the field of radiation safety and environmental protection, including, inter alia, the organization of regional workshops, and appreciates, in particular, the Agency's continued activities aimed at strengthening radiation protection in medicine.

9. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety, and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national

focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue.

10. The Group notes the activities developed by the Agency in the area of decommissioning and environmental remediation, such as in support to Member States' decommissioning programmes by providing guidance and training material on safe decommissioning and the development of TECDOCs.

11. The Group commends the Agency for conducting advisory missions on the regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety, as well as for addressing radiation safety infrastructure in Member States that have expressed an interest in establishing or enhancing their cancer control capacity through integrated missions of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) review missions.

Madam Chairperson,

12. The efforts of the Agency in the area of education and training, and knowledge management in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety are of foremost importance to the Group. We reiterate our support for the Agency's efforts to acquire, preserve and transfer knowledge and organizational memory in nuclear safety to Member States.

13. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and encourages the Agency to continue them. The Group highlights the importance of supporting the work of regional forums and networks through the conduct of regional EPR workshops in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

14. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document GOV/2019/27-GC(63)/4.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Agenda Item 4: Nuclear security

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Security Report 2019, which covers the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, as contained in document GOV/2019/31-GC(63)/10. The Group also expresses its thanks to Deputy Director-General Juan Carlos Lentijo for his introductory remarks under

this agenda item, as well as to the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the technical briefing provided to delegations on 29 August 2019. [Not to be read]

2. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The Group urges the Secretariat to always reflect this important principle in full in accordance with the Nuclear Security Resolutions.

3. The Group remains of the view that nuclear security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and international cooperation in that regard, including through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

4. The Group recognizes the importance of coordination among the Agency's departments in development and implementation of its activities, and calls any effort in this regard to be done in full respect of all the positions presented by the Group in particular regarding the allocation of resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme. 5. The Group concurs with the notion that the role of the Agency in enhancing nuclear security and the scope of its activities must be determined by Member States, as reflected in the Board decisions and General Conference resolutions, with due account of the need to ensure an appropriate balance between activities in the promotional and non-promotional areas.

5. The Group notes that successive General Conference resolutions have affirmed the Agency's central role in assisting Member States for strengthening the nuclear security globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security. The Agency has responded to these GC resolutions by organizing or participating in a number of major meetings and coordination efforts. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in this regard and requests the Secretariat to provide more information in this respect in its future Nuclear Security Reports.

6. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to assist Member States, upon their request, to build and develop their nuclear security capacity which include facilitating adherence to and implementation of relevant international legal instruments, developing nuclear security guidance and supporting States in the voluntary implementation of the guidance, and helping States in the establishment of effective, sustainable and comprehensive national nuclear security infrastructure.

7. The Group welcomes the voluntary reporting of Member States to the Agency's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB). The Group notes that the Agency does not have the mandate or capability to verify such reporting. The Group also notes the information provided by the Secretariat on external users of the ITDB and their access level and on the occasions where the Agency shared the information from the ITDB to States.

8. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to provide further reassurance that the information, including on the ITDB, is handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.

9. With regard to public communication, while the Group welcomes the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to improve communication with the public and Member States about its Nuclear Security activities, the Group stresses the importance of preserving and protecting the confidential information relevant to such activities.

10. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Agency to develop and implement Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to assist Member States, upon request, in applying a structured and holistic approach to nuclear security improvements including through capacity building and increased coordination, while also stressing that such information should be handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.

11. The Group welcomes the continued improvement of the Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC). The Group also notes improvements made to NUSEC including the continued enhancements of the IPPAS Good Practice Database, the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) database, and the common calendar to provide information on all training courses and other events hosted by NSSC Network members.

12. The Group further notes the continued maintenance and update of the Nuclear Security Information Management System (NUSIMS), a web-based platform for States to perform nuclear security self-assessment on a voluntary basis.

13. Recognizing the growing requests of Member States for the Agency's support in information and computer security, the Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in responding to those requests through developing additional nuclear security guidance and providing a number of training courses.

14. The Group also reiterates its appreciation to the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, the Interface Group, the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security, the International Nuclear Safety Group and the Secretariat for their work on and contributions toward the Agency's Nuclear Security Series publications. The Group notes the Secretariat's efforts to facilitate the participation of Member States in the process of development and review of the Agency's Nuclear Security Series publications. The Group reiterates its call on the Secretariat to facilitate a broader participation of representatives from developing countries in its meetings to ensure greater transparency and consensus in the development and review of such publications.

15. Concerning the Agency's advisory services, the Group notes that the Agency's

International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission was conducted, upon request, in Member States and that the Agency began implementing the new guidelines for International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) mission.

16. Regarding human resource development, the Group appreciates the Agency's continued support of comprehensive human resource development activities to ensure the sustainability of national nuclear security regimes, including the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) and International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSCs).

17. The Group notes with satisfaction that, during this reporting period, the Agency has provided instructor-led training to over 2000 participants from 101 States and e-learning modules to 1516 users from 140 States. The Group further encourages the Secretariat to enhance its activities oriented at capacity-building in Member States, particularly developing countries, thus helping to ensure their adequate human resources.

18. The Group takes note of the Agency's activities, undertaken at the request of Member States, in the area of risk reduction and security improvement. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the capabilities of Member States in this regard, including in the areas of threat characterization and assessment, the promotion of nuclear security culture, nuclear material accountancy and control, transport security, and nuclear forensics, among others.

19. The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should avoid ambiguous language in its reports that can be interpreted in different ways and requests the Secretariat to use a language that reflects the broader views of the Agency's Member States.

20. The Group notes the Agency's main goals and priorities concerning nuclear security for 2018-2019, which include preparations for the next International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in Vienna from 10-14 February 2020, and the continued preparations for the Review Conference of the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment to take place in 2021.

21. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2019.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Agenda Item 5: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat for the report on Agency

activities in the area of nuclear science, technology and applications, as contained in document GOV/2019/26-GC(63)/3, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(62)/RES/9 and GC(61)/RES/11. (Not to be read).

2. The work done by the Agency in nuclear power and nuclear applications highlights the need to increase the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge to developing countries so as to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximizing the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group urges the Agency to continue to provide training and education, to support national and regional laboratories and to further enhance the coordinated research activities. The Group also welcomes the contributions made by Member States to various Agency projects, and encourages all Member States, in a position to do so, to continue providing such support through the Agency.

3. On Annex 1, related to the ‘General’ part of the non-power nuclear applications, the Group welcomes the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group notes with satisfaction that the conference attracted the highest ever-ministerial level participation, which underscores the importance Member States attach to the Agency’s work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its application and delivery through TCP. In this regard, the Group reiterates its position that the Agency should organize follow-up International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2022.

4. The Group notes with appreciation the progress made in the area of human health and medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals production, as well as the strengthening of Agency’s relationship with WHO. The Group also appreciates the Agency’s continued efforts to work with Member States’ Collaborating Centres, to implement its programmatic activities and promote the practical use of nuclear techniques, and the Agency’s support in facilitating effective research through Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) to allow research institutes in both developing and developed Member States to collaborate. Recognizing the positive impact of CRPs in the Technical Cooperation Programme, and their resulting publications, the Group urges the Secretariat to further ensure benefits from possible synergies and avoiding duplication in this regard.

5. On Annex 2, related to the “Support to the African Union’s Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)”, the Group appreciates the Agency’s continuous efforts to support the AU-PATTEC Plan of Action through TC projects providing training, expert services and equipment to countries in the African

region affected by this problem. The Group notes with appreciation the 2018 signing of a Practical Agreement between the Agency and the African Union Commission that expands areas of cooperation and include PATTEC. The Group takes note of the assessment that tsetse flies and the trypanosomosis problem constitute one of the greatest constraints on the African continent's socio-economic development, affecting the health of humans and livestock, limiting sustainable rural development and thus causing increased poverty and food insecurity. The Group encourages the continuation of the Agency's support toward the AU PATTEC initiative to eradicate tsetse and Trypanosomosis from the African continent through the creation of sustainable tsetse and trypanosomosis free areas. The Group encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

6. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to pursue its efforts to develop SIT package to effectively combat disease transmitting insects.

7. On Annex 3, the Group appreciates Agencies activities related to the "Use of Isotope Hydrology for Water Resources Management". The Group notes the Agency's efforts to strengthen isotope hydrology activities, such as focus on research, training, protocol development and analytical services to expand the use of groundwater age dating with isotopes to map water resources. The Group commends the Agency for its activities aimed at expanding access to isotope techniques and capacity building as well as improving understanding of the water cycle and climate change.

8. On Annex 4, in relation to the "Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf", the Group commends the efforts of the Secretariat, Friends of the ReNuAL and Member States of the Agency, to raise funds for this project. The project achieved key milestones, with the inauguration of the Flexible Modular Laboratory at the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology last year; and most recently the inauguration of the LINAC Facility. The Group commends the efforts of the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of the Friends of ReNuAL in mobilizing resources from Member States and non-traditional donors, including introducing an initiative to seek further private sector partners utilizing the UN Global Marketplace portal.

9. On Annex 5 related to "General, Communication and Agency Cooperation with other Agencies, and Operation of Existing Nuclear Power Plants", the Group notes the Agency's efforts to provide support to interested Member States for the development of national capacities in the operation of nuclear power plants (NPPs) and in embarking on new nuclear power programmes, as well as future efforts to address climate change through participation in key forums. The Group also notes that a

variety of meetings and activities were organized by the Agency to promote effective collaboration mechanism between Member States to strengthen excellence in operation of existing nuclear power plants, as well as to provide supports through its safety review services to address ageing and plant life management and challenges of maintaining high standards for future nuclear workforce.

10. On Annex 6 “Agency Activities in the Development of Innovative Nuclear Technology”, the Group notes the work carried out by the Agency’s International Project on Innovative Nuclear reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) to promote collaboration and provide opportunities to Member States to exchange knowledge and experience in developing innovative, globally sustainable nuclear energy systems. The Group reiterates its view that the support to INPRO from the Agency’s regular budget should be enhanced.

11. On Annex 7, “Approaches to Supporting Nuclear Power Infrastructure Development”, the Group welcomes the various activities carried out by the Agency in this area, which support the successful introduction of nuclear power and its safe, secure and efficient use. The Groups notes the Secretariat’s continued efforts on integrating Agency assistance for Member States embarking on or expanding their nuclear power programmes through oversight across the Agency. The Group also notes the Secretariat’s activities in applying the Milestones Approach’ to support development of nuclear infrastructure in Member States interested in or embarking on new nuclear power programs. The Group appreciates the dissemination of lessons learned from 10 years of INIR missions as a TECDOC, to improve the INIR methodology for nuclear infrastructure development.

12. The Group believes that nuclear energy will make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of human kind throughout the 21st century and beyond. The Group further notes the role played by nuclear power in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its contribution to addressing climate change issues and to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the IAEA International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power to be held in Vienna, from 7-11 October 2019. The Group recalls the agreement on climate change adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), which recognizes that reductions in global greenhouse emissions are needed as soon as possible. In this context the Group encourages the Agency to further strengthen its role in promoting the safe use of nuclear power. The Group highly values the Agency’s central role in this regard, which is of particular importance in developing countries and notes with satisfaction the continued assistance provided by the Agency to Member States in training and capacity building.

13. On Annex 8, “Small and Medium-sized or Modular Reactors – Development and Deployment”, the Group notes the different activities undertaken by the Agency, such as the approval of new coordinated research projects, the organization of technical and consultancy meetings, and the development of related publications and training material.

14. With these comments, the Group takes note of document under this agenda item (GOV/2019/26-GC(63)/3).

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.