



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the IAEA Informal Programme and Budget Committee Meeting, on 05 February 2020, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt

Madam Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021 contained in GOV/2020/1 and for the presentation provided today.
2. The Group maintains its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including technical cooperation, (b) safety and (c) safeguards. The Group is of the view that there should be balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.
3. The Group notes that the draft budget update for 2021 proposes no changes to the Agency's programme for 2020-2021 biennium as approved in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2020-2021 and that it represents zero real growth over 2020 with a 1.6% price adjustment in the regular budget. The Group further notes that the update envisages no changes to the Major Capital Investment Plan (MCIP). The Group has taken note of the annex provided which outlines cost savings and efficiencies, including those of a cross-cutting nature, as well as a list of cost saving measures to absorb the impact of the higher than anticipated increase in the Agency's Professional staff costs. The Group requests that such measures should not negatively impact the delivery of the Technical Cooperation programme.
4. Concerning possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group looks forwards to receiving information from the Secretariat, particularly in light of the relevant processes and discussions in the United Nations General Assembly and good practices from United Nations system organizations and other international organizations.
5. The Group welcomes the allocation of € 4.1 million to complete the ReNuAL initiative in 2021 and calls on the Secretariat to continue to pursue a project-specific resource mobilization strategy. We welcome the vital role that the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf play in providing support to Member States.

Thank you, Madam Chair.