



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2022-2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Vienna, 20 April 2021

Co-Chairs,

1. The Group wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for providing Member States with the informal Working Paper on the Regular Budget and TCF targets 2022-2023, as contained in 2021/Note 30. The Group further thanks the Co-Chairs for their continued efforts to build consensus on the Programme and Budget.

2. The Group notes the proposed zero real growth in the Regular Budget over 2021 as contained in GOV/2021/1. The Group would like to reiterate its principled view that the distribution of resources within the Regular Budget should reflect a balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.

3. The Group also notes that some of the views expressed by the Group have found reflection in the informal Working Paper as proposed by the Co-Chairs, including:

- The synchronization of the TC Programme cycle with the regular programme and budget cycle in accordance with previous Board decisions, so to allow for the appropriate increase of resources for the TC Programme, including the TCF Targets;
- The importance of ensuring that the quality and output of the Agency's performance is maintained with the implementation of cost-savings and efficiencies; and
- That future Draft Programme and Budget proposals should continue to include expanded information, including in the form of an annex, on cost-savings, efficiencies and productivity increases.

Co-Chairs,

4. In view of the continuing growth in demand from Member States for the TC Programme, the increase in the membership of the Agency, including of Member States drawing from the TCF, as confirmed by the presentation delivered by the DDG of Technical Cooperation, and other relevant factors as cited in previous statements - sustained efforts are required to render the resources for the TC Programme Sufficient, Assured and Predictable.

5. The Group acknowledges that the TCF targets for 2022 and 2023 are yet to be finalised as denoted in paragraph 20, similar to the IPFs for 2024 and 2025. When discussing the TCF targets, Member States should not only take into account the price adjustment of the regular budget, but also the number of unfunded projects and other relevant factors outlined above and in previous statements. With this in mind, the Group maintains its view that the IPFs from 2019 should be the starting point for negotiations of the TCF targets for 2022-2023 and should therefore increase accordingly with the needs of Member States participating in the TCP.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.