



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Informal Consultations regarding the IAEA Draft Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

Vienna, 23 April 2021

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to congratulate DDG Evrard and Director Buglova on their appointment and thanks them and the Secretariat for preparing a revised draft of the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, as attached to 2021/Note 27 and for organizing these informal consultations. The Group would like to offer the following comments.

2. The Group recalls the General Conference Resolution on Nuclear Security adopted in 2020 (GC(64)/RES/10), which called upon the Agency to develop the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025 in a close consultation process between the Secretariat and Member States. In this regard, the Group underscores the need for as many consultations as required until consensus is reached.

3. From the outset, the Group emphasizes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The IAEA provides support to Member States in strengthening their internal Nuclear Security capacity, upon the request of States.

4. Moreover, the Group underscores the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security. The Group emphasizes that the scope of its activities in this field must be determined by Member States based on their needs and priorities and must be guided by the General Conference Resolutions on Nuclear Security.

Madam,

5. The Group reiterates its principled position that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

6. This important principle has been stated in the resolutions on nuclear security adopted by the General Conference and reflected in three ICONS Ministerial Declarations adopted in 2013, 2016 and 2020.

7. Bearing in mind that the responsibility for nuclear security within a state rests entirely with that state, the Group recalls that the Nuclear Security Plan aims to be a framework to provide assistance to Member States, upon request, to build their respective national capacities in nuclear security. In this regard, the Group highlights the need to reflect this principle consistently throughout the draft Plan.

8. The Group notes that there are some elements in the draft of the Plan, which may not be consistent with GC Resolutions on Nuclear Security. Therefore, the Group requests the Secretariat to cross-reference the draft Plan with the GC Resolutions, and also to consider the ICONS Ministerial Declarations as appropriate. This will be consistent with the process followed for the 2018-2021 Nuclear Security Plan.

9. The Group also notes that the Agency's first comprehensive plan of action was approved in March 2002 by the Board of Governors, together with the creation of a voluntary funding mechanism, the Nuclear Security Fund, in order to implement the Plan. The Group highlights the need to ensure an appropriate balance between activities in the promotional and non-promotional areas. In this regard, the Group urges the Secretariat, going forward, to avoid the introduction of any elements in the Plan that do not enjoy consensus in this regard.

10. The Group stresses that the language in all sections of the Nuclear Security Plan must reflect the consensus achieved in the course of discussions on the GC Resolutions and the Ministerial Declarations on Nuclear Security.

11. In conclusion, the Group is still studying the document and will provide additional comments in future consultations.

12. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to further consultations on the draft Nuclear Security Plan with a view to its finalization in due course.

Thank you, Madam.