



**G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA June Board of Governors, 7-11 June 2021,
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Agenda item 2: The Annual Report for 2020

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2020 as contained in document GOV/2021/11 and for the informal briefing provided on 20 May 2021.

Nuclear Technology

2. The Group notes that nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programs, but also for developing countries with growing energy needs and that five new nuclear reactors were connected to the grid in 2020. The Group encourages the Agency to continue providing the necessary support to Member States interested in launching and expanding their nuclear power programmes.

3. The Group takes note of the IAEA Scientific Forum, Nuclear Power and the Clean Energy Transition held in September 2020.

4. The Group attaches high importance to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), as a relevant forum gathering technology holders and users with the aim of achieving innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget. The Group notes the launch of the updated Energy Scenarios Simulation Tool (ESST), as well as the upgrading of INPRO's Nuclear Energy System Assessment Economics Support Tool (NEST). The Group also values the support provided to Member States upon their request through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and National Nuclear Energy System Assessments (NESAs).

Madam Chair,

5. The Group welcomes the work of the Agency in the application of nuclear technologies and, specifically, the assistance provided to Member States in this regard. Nuclear technologies and applications make an important contribution to sustainable development and, therefore, the Group welcomes the Agency's continued assistance to Member States, based on their national priorities, despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. The Group reiterates that there is a fundamental need to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology to and sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries and welcomes that Nuclear knowledge development remained an area of focus in 2020. As preservation of nuclear knowledge continues to be a high priority for many Member States, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to interested Member States in capacity building and nuclear knowledge management, including through the Knowledge Management Assist Visits and Regional Nuclear Education Networks in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

7. The Group attaches great value to Small and Medium Sized or Modular Reactors (SMRs), their potential benefit as a source of power generation, especially for Member States with limited electrical grids, their successful use in energy planning and seawater desalination, taking into account their demonstrated overall cost-effectiveness. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue its support to Member States in this regard.

Madam Chair,

8. The Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear data, research reactors and accelerator technologies. The Group reiterates its full support for the activities of the Agency in nuclear science, and urges the Secretariat to enhance its assistance on developing nuclear science application capabilities of Member States as a tool for their technological and economic development.

9. The Group highlights the important role of the various applications of nuclear and isotopic techniques in the field of food and agriculture, human health, management of water resources, environment, industry as well as radioisotope and radiation technology. The Group requests the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to strengthen national capabilities of Member States, particularly developing countries, in these areas.

10. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf, which have assisted Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies for six decades. The Group appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions made by Member States for the construction and renovation of the laboratories, through the Renovation of the Nuclear Application Laboratories (ReNuAL and ReNuAL+) Projects to date. As we enter the final phase of this important Project, ReNuAL 2, it is important to emphasize that ReNuAL has enabled the Agency to upgrade the laboratories and equipment to enhance its scientific and research capabilities and support it can provide in response to existing and emerging challenges of Member States. The Group encourages Member States in a position to do so, to support ReNuAL2.

11. The Group continues to support the work of the Agency in the field of Food and Agriculture, specifically in combating multiple outbreaks of transboundary zoonotic and animal diseases, the development of the Sterile Insect Technique, addressing soil erosion and enhancing water resources management. The Group supports the establishment of the Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action (ZODIAC) which will assist Member States in identifying; monitoring; tracing and detection of zoonotic disease pathogens with a view to strengthen the ability of the IAEA and its Member States to respond to these kinds of disease outbreaks in the future.

12. In the field of human health, the Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field nutrition, biodosimetry and advanced radiotherapy technologies. The Group also commends the work of the Agency, especially in the prevention, control and fight against cancer. The Group notes the activities undertaken in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and looks forward to the results of the Coordinated Research Project on the implementation of image-guided brachytherapy.

13. The Group takes note of the International Conference on Molecular Imaging and PET-CT in the Era of Theranostics (IPET-2020) held virtually in November 2020 and is pleased to note that the conference contributed to the medical educational credits of participants.

14. The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in managing water resources through assessing the impact of mining activities on water resources using nuclear techniques, as well as the use of isotope hydrology in climate change prediction models.

15. The Group also wishes to highlight the important role of the Agency in radioisotope production and the development of radiation technologies.

Nuclear Safety and Security

Madam Chair,

16. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2020. The Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State and that the IAEA can provide upon request assistance through expertise and advice to Member States. We reiterate our support for the Agency's central role, in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, and in promoting Nuclear Safety standards in line with Article III of its Statute. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety should not hamper the promotion, transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

17. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in conducting capacity building activities across its programme of work for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response, as well as in strengthening global, regional and national safety networks and forums. The Group also recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards and welcomes the issuance of 10 publications in the Safety Guides series in 2020.

18. The Group attaches great value to the IAEA's assistance to developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes and encourages the Agency to continue its support to Member States, upon request, in developing and strengthening their nuclear safety infrastructure. In this context, the Group values the Agency's support, provided to Member States, upon their request, through the peer review and advisory services conducted in 2020 across all safety areas. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.

19. The Group takes note of the outcomes of the International Conference on Radiation Safety: Improving Radiation Protection in Practice, held virtually in November 2020 as presented in the report and requests that its follow-up be done in close consultations with Member States whenever necessary.

20. The Group notes the Agency's continued efforts in 2020 to contribute to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and that nuclear security should not be a condition or pre-requisite for technical cooperation projects. 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.

21. The Group takes note of the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts (ICONS) held in February 2020 and its Ministerial Declaration.

Technical Cooperation

Madam Chair,

22. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.

23. Therefore, the Group reiterates its call for strengthening the promotional activities of the IAEA, including Technical Cooperation and Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs), through the provision of sufficient, assured and predictable resources, so as to properly respond to the increasing number of Member States and their growing needs, as well as to enhance the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development.

24. The Group further notes the activities undertaken in relation to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and appreciates the targeted outreach to traditional and non-traditional donors in mobilizing direct and indirect resources for unfunded cancer-related activities in Member States. The Group is likewise pleased to note that the conduct of Integrated Missions of PACT Review missions continued despite the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit in hybrid format. Broad access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy remains a challenge and the Group urges the IAEA to collaborate with relevant international organizations, in order to continue building capacities in developing countries.

25. Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations within the UN system remains important in allowing for increased access to nuclear science and technology for Member States, in support of their national and development priorities. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation the existing, extended and new Partnership Agreements and Practical Arrangements related to technical cooperation.

26. In conclusion, the Group recalls the successful International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group reaffirms the importance Member States attach to the Agency's work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its applications and their delivery through technical cooperation programme. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the commencement of consultations on the follow up International Ministerial Conference in 2023.

27. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2020 contained in document GOV/2021/11.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 3: IAEA Technical Cooperation Report 2020

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Liu, for his introductory remarks and for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report as well as the informal technical briefing provided on 20 May 2021.

2. The Group of 77 and China believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.

3. The Group welcomes the continued success of the Technical Cooperation activities in the different regions, despite the difficulties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and commends the Secretariat for its support and assistance to Member States.

4. The Group reiterates that the TC Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments of the Agency and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be tailored to respond to the evolving needs and priorities of individual Member States, in particular the developing countries. Such an approach would also be in accordance with Section 2, Operative Paragraph 4 of resolution GC (64)/RES/11, dealing with assistance to developing and least developed countries. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue making every effort in addressing the challenges facing LDCs in the peaceful application of nuclear energy through the Technical Cooperation Programme, as set out in GOV/INF/2016/12.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group notes that the IAEA regional programmes are an essential tool to promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), foster the exchange of best practices, and promote networks amongst member states. The Group appreciates the Secretariat's support in this regard, and requests that the Secretariat continues its efforts to enhance the effective and efficient management of regional programmes. The Group also supports the Secretariat's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of TC programme delivery to new Member States, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the development of focused capacity building support that are tailored towards individual member states development needs.

6. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2020 with the purpose of enhancing efficiency in the delivery of TC projects, including through linking the content of the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) to national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), in accordance with priorities and needs identified by member states.

7. The Group would also like to recall the established process of the medium-term national planning mechanisms, such as CPFs regional profiles and strategic frameworks through which the needs of Member States are identified and defined. Any changes to the established TC programmatic approach by the Secretariat should be considered in close consultation with Member States.

8. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC Programme. In this context, the Group reiterates that the present guidelines and criteria as contained in INFCIRC/267 for the screening of TC project proposals, programme implementation and subsequent evaluation are sufficient and effective.

Madam Chair,

9. The Group notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TC Fund (TCF) for 2020, as of 31 December 2020, was 91.1%. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the successful implementation of the TC Programme and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group also requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to improve the rate of attainment on pledges and payments to the TCF.

10. The Group notes with concern that despite the increasing number of developing countries receiving technical cooperation from the Agency, the resources for the TC Programme, both financial and human, have not increased in tandem. This situation becomes all the more striking when comparing the TCF to the funds available for the non-promotional activities. The Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat to include in future reports the details of the increasing number of participants in the TC Programme and increasing demands over the past several years.

11. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, as called for by the General Conference repeatedly in its resolutions on Technical Cooperation. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to Major Programme 6, in order to facilitate the successful delivery of the TC Programme in light of the growing demand.

12. In this regard, the Group thanks the Secretariat for its commitment in ensuring the continued delivery of the TC Programme during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the assistance provided through inter-regional project INT0098. The Group appreciates all the contributions made to the Agency's COVID-19 related assistance including the provision of testing and other relevant equipment for the detection of COVID-19. The Group also appreciates the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat to adapt and ensure the effective delivery of the TC Programme as much as possible and in consultation with Member States, in spite of the current difficult situation.

13. The Group further appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States, the private sector and other non-traditional donors to the TC Programme. In addition, the Group notes the decision of some countries to participate in the government cost-sharing mechanism. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions that were made by those in a position to do so, the Group notes that extrabudgetary funding in 2020 represented 52% of the TC funding. However, the Group remains concerned about the increased reliance on extrabudgetary contributions for the delivery of the TC Programme and its potential impact on the funding being sufficient, assured and predictable. Extrabudgetary contributions therefore should not and cannot replace the TC Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism essential to a stable and strategic TC Programme.

Madam Chair,

14. The Group takes note of the important contribution the Agency's TC Programme could make to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs as well as to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to help Member States to benefit from the synergies between the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the TC Programme, while recognizing their specificities. The Group maintains that alignment with the SDGs should not constitute a limitation or condition for TC projects, nor a tool for their reprioritization. The Group also holds the view that the SDGs places a greater demand for additional resources to address the increasing socio-economic challenges and to meet the developmental needs of developing countries.

15. In this regard, the Group also reiterates its strong position that TC should not be subject to any form of conditionality, which is inconsistent with the statute of the IAEA and the guiding principles and operating rules as contained in INFCIRC/267 and requests the Secretariat to continue to adhere to them.

Madam Chair,

16. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the quality of the TC Programme by providing support to the Member States to ensure that the projects for the next TC cycle are relevant, effective, sustainable, have measurable and attainable objectives, and offer greater opportunities for social and economic benefits and long-term national development impact. While acknowledging the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group remains of the view that technical meetings on virtual platforms cannot be a substitute for face-to-face meetings, which allow for a far more enriching interaction and productive outcomes, especially with regard to training and capacity-building programmes. We therefore, strongly urge that, as the pandemic conditions permit, efforts should be made to revert to the norm of organizing physical events.

17. The Group reiterates its call on the Agency to address long-standing obstacles such as delays and denials of equipment, as well as travel and visa restrictions arbitrarily imposed by a number of Member States, which negatively impact programme delivery and the rate of implementation.

Madam Chair,

18. The Group reiterates that alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDFs) should not be made a requirement for TC projects. However, the Group takes note of the Agency's increasing visibility within the UN system which may allow the Agency to identify linkages between the goals and objectives of the CPFs and, where appropriate, those of the UNSDF in order to facilitate close coordination with UN agencies to address national priorities in sustainable development.

19. In this context, the Group stresses the vital role of the National Liaison Officers (NLOs) in TC project design and implementation. The continued strengthening of the NLOs' management capabilities, together with the strengthening of the role of the Programme Management Officer (PMO) and the coordination with the Permanent Missions in Vienna, would be essential to enhance country programme delivery. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation for the Agency's support in strengthening the role of the NLO, in particular through the bilateral and virtual NLO meetings. The Group welcomes the inclusion of gender as a consideration in TC project design. Moreover, the Group supports the Agency's efforts to expand female participation in the TC programme, including through encouraging Member States to nominate female NLOs, meeting and workshop participants, fellows and scientific visitors, and counterparts.

20. The Group underlines the importance of cancer control in developing countries and urges the IAEA to continue building capacities in developing countries, including those that still have no access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy. The Group encourages the Agency to continue addressing Member States' requirements for comprehensive cancer control capacity and needs through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and to foster more regional PACT programmes. The Group highly commends the continued efforts to strengthen collaboration of the Agency with leading cancer organizations and other partners such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), including in the conduct of imPACT reviews, as well as signing new Practical Arrangements with the Global Access to Cancer Care Foundation (GACCF) and a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The Group further welcomes the strengthening of existing partnerships with governments, the private sector and international financing institutions.

21. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2020 contained in document GOV/2021/17.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) and would like to thank Acting-Deputy Director General Bauswein, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the External Auditor for reports prepared and presented at the PBC.

2. The Group also thanks the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) Targets for 2022-2023, Ambassadors Robertson and Khokher for their extensive work in facilitating an agreement among Member States.

Madam Chair,

3. The Group reiterates its long-held view that the Agency's budget should reflect the balance between the three pillars of the Agency's work, namely; the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology including Technical Cooperation; Safety; and Safeguards. To achieve this balance and in order to respond to the growing needs of developing countries, the increased number of Member States making use of nuclear applications and embarking on nuclear energy, the Group has long been of the opinion that sufficient funding from the Regular Budget must be secured for Major Programmes 1, 2 and 6.

4. In this regard, the Group notes that in the 2022-2023 biennium, 143 Member States, including 35 LDCs, will have a national TC Programme, representing an increase of 2 Member States compared to the current biennium.

5. Therefore, the Group believes that more effort should be made to provide sufficient resources, including staff, for the management of the TCP, if its priority areas are to be achieved, such as ensuring adequate support to the growing number of Member States participating in the TC Programme and to the extended demand of Member States for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

6. This underscores the necessity of Sufficient, Assured and Predictable resources for the TC Programme in order to enable it to adequately respond to Member States' growing demands, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in accordance with priorities and needs as identified by Member States.

7. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the implementation of the Programme and Budget, including the TCP in 2022 and 2023, the Group requests that Member States be informed accordingly of any changes required in implementation, and these should be addressed in close coordination with affected Member States.

8. The Group has also taken note that for future budget cycles, budgetary information by items of expenditure, the level of Full Time Equivalents by staff category, and an annex outlining the cost savings and efficiencies, including those of a cross-cutting nature will be provided. Regarding staff issues, the Group would like to acknowledge the limit to staff cost of 75% in 2022-2023, and would like to emphasize the need to maintain a balance across MPs in both numbers and level of staff.

9. The Group emphasizes that recruitment of staff should be in line with the Secretariat's efforts to increase the representation of women and under-represented Member States and regions from the Group, especially at the professional and managerial levels.

10. While taking note of the Secretariat's efforts to ensure prioritization, efficiencies and synergies, the Group reiterates its firm opinion that such efforts should not negatively impact the Agency's ability to deliver on its statutory mandate or affect the desired balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.

Madam Chair,

11. Turning to the TCF targets, the Group recalls that the synchronization of the TC Programme cycle with the regular Programme and Budget cycle was meant to provide a framework to consider increases to the resources for the TC Programme (TCP), in order to enable the IAEA to effectively deliver on its main statutory function.

12. The Group reiterates its consistent and principled view that in determining the TCF targets and Indicative Planning Figures various factors as articulated by the Group during the PBC should be taken into account.

13. In this regard, the Group reiterates that the targets for voluntary contributions for 2022-23 were agreed upon during extraordinary circumstances and do not set a precedent for future targets. The Group would like to re-emphasize that having a TCP with "Sufficient, Assured and Predictable" resources is essential for the IAEA to fulfil its central role in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

14. With these comments, Madam Chair, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee as contained in document GOV/2021/26.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business - Nuclear Security Plan

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to raise a few points regarding the current process related to the Nuclear Security Plan for 2022-2025.

2. The Group recalls the General Conference Resolution on Nuclear Security adopted in 2020 (GC(64)/RES/10), which called upon the Secretariat to develop the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025 in close consultation with 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 has emphasised and reiterated a core principle, namely that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State – a position consistently reiterated in General Conference Resolutions as well as in the outcome of ICONS 2020.

4. The role of the IAEA is to provide support to Member States, upon request, in strengthening national Nuclear Security capacity in individual Member States.

5. Moreover, the Group underscores the central role of the IAEA 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 the IAEA's 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 Chair,

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Bearing in mind that the responsibility for nuclear security within a state rests entirely with that state, the Group recalls that the purpose of the Nuclear Security Plan (NSP) to provide a framework within which assistance to Member States is provided by the IAEA as requested and with the purpose of strengthening national capacities in the area of nuclear security.

9. Because the development of the Nuclear Security Plan is such a high priority activity for Member States, the Group supported the proposed work plan discussed with Member States in the first two informal consultations. However, the Group is deeply concerned that the process appears to have come to a standstill. According to the Programme of Work presented to Member States on 12 March 2021 and again at the consultations in April, the second draft of the proposed NSP should have been received towards the end of April and the next round of informal consultations were due to take place towards the end of May - neither of which happened.

10. The Group is deeply concerned that Member States may not have enough time to hold in-depth and robust consultations on the proposals contained in the NSP that will set the tone for the next three years in this important area of the IAEA's work, work that will also directly impact the nuclear security of each one of us.

11. We therefore kindly request that a revised draft NSP be released as soon as possible as well as a revised work plan. Time is running out as Member States will soon start preparations for the General Conference, including the finalisation of the Nuclear Security Resolution and further delays can no longer be accommodated.

12. As a reminder when preparing the revised NSP the Group wants to reiterate a few key points, namely:

- a) The Secretariat is requested to follow the practice of submitting the revised draft NSP with track changes, as well as indicating the origin of proposed changes to make it clear to Member States what changes have been effected;
- b) 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; and

- c) 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.

13. 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 by the September Board of Governors meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.