



**G-77 and China Statement during the Board of Governors, 24-26 November 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

**Agenda Item 6 - Any other business: Report on the Implementation of Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization**

Mr. Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Director General for the preparation of the report on the Implementation of Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, as contained in document GOV/INF/2021/41.

2. The Group takes positive note of the steps and efforts taken by the Secretariat in implementing these Strategic Guidelines as agreed by the Board in June 2015, including through (a) strengthening of internal information sharing and coordination mechanisms, (b) development of internal tools and processes, (c) capacity-building of staff members, (d) enhanced communication and outreach.

3. The Group appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to support Member States in building partnerships and in mobilizing resources, such as actions related to partnerships with Member State institutions to promote technology transfer, and partnerships with international financial institutions, development cooperation agencies, regional organizations, private sector and foundations, universities and academic institutions, national and international professional and research organizations, UN and other International Organizations (IOs).

4. The Group also welcomes the establishment of the Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordination Committee (PRMCC), supplemented by two sub-committees, with an aim to provide guidance to the Agency's different departments on vetting non-traditional partners, and to ensure that additional complexities and potential risks of entering into partnerships with these donors are adequately addressed in advance.

5. The Group appreciates that such efforts have proven useful in increasing the amount of extra-budgetary resources to over €123 million and €171 million in 2019 and 2020 respectively, which are the highest amounts since the approval of these Strategic Guidelines in 2015. The Group notes that part of this increase was due to the exceptional support provided to the Agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic through the largest technical cooperation project in the history of the IAEA, which received total financial and in-kind contribution of more than €29.5 million.

6. The Group also welcomes the approach taken by the Secretariat during the planning of the 2022-2023 Programme and Budget to align resource mobilization with identified unfunded programmatic activities with a view to secure the needed financial support for such activities and their full implementation. Such an approach gains significant importance given the increasing number of commendable initiatives launched by the Director General over the last two years, including inter alia the Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship Programme, ZODIAC, ReNuAL2, NUTEC Plastic and COMPASS.

7. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's renewed focus on bringing new partners and expresses appreciation for support provided by traditional and non-traditional donors, including from developing countries, which has supplemented the limited resources of the Agency.

8. The Group takes note of the new Country Programme Framework (CPF) guidance and template introduced in 2019, together with its partnership and results matrices, as well as the revision and completion of the partnership matrices of 32 CPFs, based on comprehensive donor and partners analyses.

Mr. Chairperson,

9. The Group would like to reiterate its opinion that the Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization have the potential to strengthen the Agency's capacity to tap into new and additional resources through resource mobilization and public-private partnerships, and that, in the case of Technical Cooperation, these resources would complement the sources of funding to the TC Programme.

10. The Group stresses its principled position that additional sources of funding, such as public-private partnerships and extra-budgetary funding, cannot replace the Technical Cooperation Fund, which is essential for a sustainable and strategic TC Programme. The Group also stresses the importance of ensuring that the resources of the TC Programme are sufficient, assured and predictable.

11. On that note, the Group calls upon the Secretariat to exert additional resource mobilization efforts in order to commensurate with the unprecedented increase in the total amount of unfunded operational and capital activities planned in 2022-2023 Programme and Budget, which amount to over €303 million, in addition to footnote A activities. The Group reiterates its precautionary call against the overreliance of extrabudgetary activities in the future programme and budget planning.

12. The Group requests the Secretariat to organise a briefing session at the earliest convenience to highlight the main elements and technical aspects of the report, and respond to Member States inquiries in this regard, given the significance of this report and its strategic impact on the work of the IAEA. The Group also looks forward to receiving periodic updates on the activities undertaken on the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines every two years.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.