



STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2024-2029, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO

Vienna, 13 May 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I wish to thank you for chairing the discussions of the open-ended Working Group on the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029 in an inclusive, transparent and professional manner. The Group appreciates the consultations conducted by the Chair with the Member States as it believes that the Medium-Term Strategy should be finalized through a Member States driven process.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the draft of the MTS and the presentation made today. While the Group is analyzing the draft and looks forward to sharing further comments in due course, it has the following views to express at this stage.
3. The Group reiterates that the MTS for the next cycles must be consistent with the Statute and the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Policy Making Organs of the Agency and should be based on the evolving priorities of its Member States, taking into account the needs of developing countries.
4. The Group further reiterates that the new MTS should reflect an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
5. Considering that the activities under Major Programs 1, 2 and 6 are of paramount importance in fulfilling the Agency's statutory objective "to accelerate and enlarge the contributions of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", the Group maintains that the activities under these programs should be accorded adequate financial and political support in the MTS to enable the Agency to respond to the increasing requests of Member States, including in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
6. The Group notes that over the period 2024-2029, the operating environment of the Agency will be characterized by multifarious global challenges including the economic, social and environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, accelerating climate change and associated challenges will pose a long-term threat to the pursuit of sustainable development. As developing countries seek to tackle these challenges, there will be growing demand for the Agency's assistance and services, in particular through the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is the main statutory vehicle of the Agency for transferring nuclear technology. The Group is therefore of the view that the new MTS should have an even broader emphasis on enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Program, resources for which must be made Sufficient, Assured and Predictable (SAP). The Group believes that achieving such an objective is not exclusively linked to improving the rate of attainment of the Technical Cooperation Fund but also *inter alia* to the need of mobilizing additional resources for the unfunded projects as contained in footnote a/.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.