



G-77 and China statement during the third Open Ended Informal Consultations on the Revision of The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco

Vienna, 15 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank you for organizing the third open ended informal consultations on the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.
2. The Group has taken note of the revised non-paper issued on 14th November 2022. However, since the non-paper was issued quite late in the evening yesterday, the Group is still in the process of analysing it and many of its members are awaiting instructions from their capitals.
3. Nevertheless, at this stage the Group is constrained to observe that the revised proposal retains the essential features of the original proposal with no substantive changes. Many of the concerns expressed by the Group have remained unaddressed. Most importantly the proposal contained in the non-paper does not substantively address the concerns of the group regarding the proposed increase to the regular budget as well as accommodate a proportional change to the TCF if the regular Budget were to be increased.
4. The Group reiterates that it continues to firmly stand by the views expressed at the previous two meetings, including with respect to the need for revising the TCF target for 2023 in a manner commensurate with proposed change in the Regular Budget; the imperative of maintaining the balance between promotional and non-promotional activities; reducing Staff-related costs; need for further savings and efficiencies. The Group once again expresses its expectation that the Secretariat will handle the budget issue, especially the Staff-related costs in strict accordance with, inter alia, the IAEA Statute, the relevant Board and GC resolutions, as well as the Staff and Financial Regulations.
5. The Group, therefore, reiterates its firm view that its consideration of any revised price adjustment applicable to the Regular Budget shall be contingent upon a corresponding level of price adjustment being applied to the TCF target for 2023, in accordance with the principle agreed since 2009 and as reaffirmed in the document GOV/2021/25.
6. Finally, the Group underscores that sufficient time must be given for Member States to address this complex issue in an inclusive, transparent, and consensus-based manner, including through appropriate mechanisms, such as a relevant inclusive working group, if necessary.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.