



**G-77 and China statement during the Third Special Session
of the General Conference of the IAEA, delivered by
H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, on 27 January 2023**

Mr. President,

1. The Group would like to extend its support and express its trust in your leadership during this Special Session of the General Conference on the Revision of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.
2. The Group wishes to express its deep appreciation for the professionalism and the efforts of the Chair of the Board of Governors, His Excellency Ambassador Ivo Srámek, in seeking consensus through the organization of an open, wide and extensive consultation process on the Budget Update.
3. Also, the Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the briefings and information provided, including through the non-papers provided, responding to queries from Member States.

Mr. President,

4. The Group takes note with appreciation that the revised proposal by the Chair of the Board of Governors on the Agency's Budget Update for 2023 addressed the concerns raised by Member States, particularly regarding the following aspect:
 - The engagement in a wide and substantive consultation process to adopt the Budget by consensus so as to ensure its ownership by the entire membership of the Agency.
 - The principle that 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.
 - The current high staff-related costs of the total operational regular budget will be reduced from 75% to 74% for 2023, and the reduced 1% be used for TC and other activities. The Group requests that the staff-related costs will be further cut down and used for TC related activities.
 - The convening of a Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025 to examine the opportunities for further efficiencies in the Agency's operations, including with respect to staff-related costs, that could be implemented in the 2024-2025 budget cycle, taking into account the importance of full and effective implementation of existing rules and regulations, including the Agency's Staff Regulations. The Group hopes that the extensive discussions we have had the past two months will help us avoid similar situations in the future and looks forward to engage in inclusive, constructive and consensus-based deliberations within the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025.
5. With these remarks, the Group would like to join consensus on the proposed Draft Budget Update for 2023.

Thank you Mr. President.