



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the
Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF
Targets for 2024-2025 of the IAEA, on 11 April 2023,
delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Co-Chairs,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for convening this meeting.
2. While engaging in discussions in this Working Group, the positions of the G-77 and China will continue to reflect adherence to the Group's principles as well as considerations, which have been clearly enunciated in its previous statements, including the Group's statement from the last TACC in November 2022. However, at this stage, the Group would like to focus on the following areas.

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3. The Group appreciates the contribution that the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) makes towards the achievement of the SDGs. It is a matter of concern for the Group that the pursuit of SDGs has been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. The Group believes that this adds more urgency to the objective of making resources for the TCP sufficient, assured and predictable, which shall then remain the overriding priority for the Group during the finalization of the Program and Budget 2024-25.
4. The Group further underscores that the promotional activities of the Agency, delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), are its main statutory function and would like to underline that the largely unfunded components of TC Programme show that the TCF has not been sufficient, assured and predictable. In this regard, the Group is of the view that a decision on the TCF Targets for 2024-2025 and the corresponding IPFs should consider the following:
 - The revised TCF Target for 2023 should be taken as the starting point for the TCF Target of 2024-2025;
 - The increasing number of Member States, including LDCs, benefitting from TC activities, as well as four new Member States with national TCPs in comparison to only one Member State in the current biennium;
 - The expressive number of Member States which will require full support under the 2024-2025 TCP;
 - That the TCF targets should grow in tandem with increases in the regular budget, including the price adjustment;
 - The need for the Agency to place the appropriate emphasis on its activities directly related to the attainment of the SDGs in Member States;
 - The large unfunded components of TC Programme in Member States, also termed as footnote a/ projects;
 - That the IPFs for 2026-2027 should be based on the agreed TCF targets of 2024-2025, and
 - Other relevant factors.

5. The aforementioned approach will be consistent with the recommendations of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA) as stated in GOV/2014/49.

Thank you, Co-chairs.