



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the IAEA June Board of Governors,
9-13 June 2025,
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Maurice Makoloo,
Permanent Representative of Kenya**

Agenda item 2: The Annual Report for 2024

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2024 as contained in document GOV/2025/8 and for the informal briefing provided on 23 May 2025.

Nuclear Technology

2. The Group notes that nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programs, but also for developing countries with growing energy needs. The Group encourages the Agency to continue providing the necessary support to Member States interested in exploring, launching and expanding nuclear power programmes.

3. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2024 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in which the Agency and its partners hosted more than 40 events at the Atoms4Climate pavilion. The Group encourages its continued engagement in the high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP30, to be held in Belém, Brazil in November 2025.

4. The Group welcomes the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme held in November 2024, in Vienna which provided a forum for Member States to discuss the use of nuclear science and technology to tackle pressing global challenges. The Group also welcomes the Ministerial Declaration agreed in that Conference and looks forward to the delivery of its outcomes through the TCP. The Group calls for the regular convening of this Ministerial Conference every four years.

5. The Group attaches high importance to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget. The Group also values the support provided to Member States upon their request through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions.

Madam Chair,

6. The Group welcomes the work of the Agency in the application of nuclear technologies and, specifically, the assistance provided to Member States in this regard. Nuclear technologies and applications make an important contribution to sustainable development and, therefore, the Group welcomes the Agency's continued assistance to Member States, based on their national priorities.

7. The Group reiterates that there is a fundamental need to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology and equipment to and sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries and welcomes that Nuclear knowledge development remained an area of focus in 2024. As

enhancement of capacity building and preservation of nuclear knowledge continue to be a high priority for many Member States, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to interested Member States in capacity building and nuclear knowledge management, including through the Knowledge Management Assist Visits (KMAVs) and Regional Nuclear Education Networks in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

8. The Group attaches great value to Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), their potential benefit as a source of power generation, especially for Member States with limited electrical grids, their successful use in energy planning and seawater desalination, taking into account their demonstrated overall cost-effectiveness. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and takes note of the progress of work under the Agency's Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications (SMR Platform).

Madam Chair,

9. The Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear data, research reactors and accelerator technologies. The Group reiterates its full support for the activities of the Agency in nuclear science, and urges the Secretariat to enhance its assistance on developing nuclear science application capabilities of Member States as a tool for their technological and economic development.

10. The Group requests the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to strengthen national capabilities of Member States, particularly developing countries, in the field of food and agriculture, human health, management of water resources, environment and industry as well as radioisotope and radiation technology based on their national priorities. The Group further calls on the Agency to support the optimal utilization of the technologies brought about by nuclear applications and successful TC projects to benefit end-users at scale, especially in developing countries.

11. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf. The Group welcomes the completion of ReNuAL2 and appreciates the support given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+and ReNuAL 2 projects. The Group looks forward to the complete implementation of the ReNuAL initiative.

12. The Group continues to support the work of the Agency in the field of Food and Agriculture, specifically in combating multiple outbreaks of transboundary zoonotic and animal diseases, the development of the Sterile Insect Technique, addressing soil erosion and enhancing water resources management. In this regard, the Group encourages the Secretariat to pursue efforts of mobilizing sufficient resources for the implementation of Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action (ZODIAC), including through the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture.

13. The Group takes positive note of the IAEA/FAO joint initiative "Atoms4Food" aiming at supporting Member States in increasing Food and Nutrition security, and looks forward to its effective implementation. The Group also takes note of the continuation of the works of the FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and the work of the Joint IAEA-FAO Programme in strengthening the capacity of Member States.

14. The Group welcomes the continued work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, in particular the NUClear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC

Plastics) initiative and notes with appreciation activities undertaken by the Secretariat for its implementation, including the marine monitoring in Antarctica, and further highlights the leading role played by developing countries in the pilot phase of the initiative's upcycling components. In this regard, the Group welcomes the progress in numerous pilot plants from its members, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, with the addition of Argentina in 2024.

15. In the field of human health, the Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nutrition, biodosimetry and advanced radiotherapy technologies. The Group also commends the work of the Agency, especially in the prevention, control and fight against cancer. The Group notes the activities undertaken in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). In this regard, the Group reaffirms its support for the Rays of Hope initiative, launched in Africa in 2022 and having expanded to all regions, and notes with satisfaction the work of its twelve Anchor Centres. The Group highlights that eight of these Anchor Centres are located in and administered by members of the Group, underscoring the increasing role played by developing countries in capacity building in this field.

16. The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in using isotope hydrology for assessment and management of their water resources, including characterization of climate change impacts on water availability.

17. The Group also wishes to highlight the important role of the Agency in radioisotope production and the development of radiation technologies.

Nuclear Safety and Security

Madam Chair,

18. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2024. The Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State and that the IAEA can provide upon request assistance through expertise and advice to Member States. We reiterate our support for the Agency's central role, in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, and in promoting Nuclear Safety standards in line with Article III of its Statute. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety should not hamper the promotion, transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

19. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in conducting capacity building activities across its programme of work for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response, as well as in strengthening global, regional and national safety networks and forums. The Group also recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards, including through the issuance of publications in the Safety Guides series.

20. The Group attaches great value to the IAEA's assistance to developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes and encourages the Agency to continue its support to Member States, upon request, in developing and strengthening their nuclear safety infrastructure. In this context, the Group values the Agency's support, provided to Member States, upon their request, through the peer review and advisory services conducted in 2024 across all safety areas. In this regard, the Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from

the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services on a voluntary basis.

21. The Group notes the Agency's continued work in 2024 to contribute to global efforts in order to achieve effective nuclear security. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and that nuclear security should not be a condition or pre-requisite for Technical Cooperation projects.

22. The Group reiterates its principled position that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme.

23. The Group would like to reiterate its principled concern regarding a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs and takes note of the approach taken for the Nuclear Safety and Security Reviews 2025. In this regard, the Group takes note of the consultations which the Secretariat conducted in response to the request of Member States on these concepts, taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group further takes note of the remarks made by the Secretariat in the last September Board that "the expression holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards" is no longer used in Safety or Security Reports and Reviews. The Group looks forward to further updates from the Secretariat on its approach on the matter.

24. The Group notes the work of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) in Seibersdorf. The Group further notes that the Centre will complement and fill gaps in training capabilities that do not commonly exist among institutions in States and will further enhance Member States' capacity building, upon request.

25. The Group notes the focus on artificial intelligence (AI) in the report. The Group recalls GC68 resolutions on the subject matter that requested the Secretariat to identify, in close consultation with Member States, potential benefits and challenges of artificial intelligence. The Group also recalls that the 2024 internal audit report recommends achieving a robust and comprehensive data governance framework to help ensure that risks related to the use of AI in the Agency are managed. In this regard, the Group underscores the need for consultations with Member States on criteria for the utilization of AI in the Agency's activities as well as ethical and legal questions raised by its use.

Technical Cooperation

Madam Chair,

26. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology and equipment for sustainable development in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.

27. Therefore, the Group reiterates its call for strengthening the promotional activities of the IAEA, including Technical Cooperation and Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs), through the

provision of sufficient, assured and predictable resources, so as to properly respond to the increasing number of Member States and their growing needs, as well as to enhance the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development. The Group further appreciates the Secretariat's efforts in reaffirming the trend towards Research and Development with the aim of facilitating knowledge transfer and resource sharing, particularly to/with developing countries, including through CRPs.

28. The Group further notes the activities undertaken in relation to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and appreciates the targeted outreach to traditional and non-traditional donors in mobilizing direct and indirect resources for unfunded cancer-related activities in Member States. The Group urges the IAEA to collaborate with relevant international organizations, in order to continue building capacities in developing countries.

29. Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations within the UN system remains important in allowing for increased access to nuclear science and technology for Member States, in support of their national and development priorities. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation the existing, extended and new Partnership Agreements and Practical Arrangements related to technical cooperation.

30. The Group welcomes the efforts made by the Agency to address the under-representation of women in the nuclear field, while recognizing the need to enhance capacity building. The Group further encourages the IAEA to continue offering training, internships and opportunities for career advancement to women and young professionals from developing countries in the nuclear field.

31. The Group calls upon the Secretariat to continue to reflect, in further annual reports, any advancement accomplished regarding the application of the principle of equitable geographic representation within the Agency and its programmes, as highlighted in GC(67)/RES/17.

32. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2024 contained in document GOV/2025/18.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



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Agenda item 3: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities. Technical Cooperation Report for 2024

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Hua Liu, for his introductory remarks and for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report as well as the informal technical briefing provided on 23 May 2025.
2. The Group of 77 and China believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.
3. The Group reiterates that the TC Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments of the Agency and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be tailored to respond to the evolving needs and priorities of individual Member States, in particular the developing countries. Such an approach would also be in accordance with Section 2, Operative Paragraph 4 of resolution GC(68)/RES/10, dealing with assistance to developing and least developed countries. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue making every effort in addressing the challenges facing LDCs in the peaceful application of nuclear energy through the Technical Cooperation Programme, as set out in GOV/INF/2016/12.

Madam Chair,

4. The Group notes that the IAEA regional programmes are an essential tool to promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), foster the exchange of best practices, and promote networks amongst Member States. The Group appreciates the Secretariat's support in this regard, and requests that it continues its efforts to enhance the effective and efficient management of regional programmes. The Group also supports the Secretariat's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of TC Programme delivery to new Member States, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the development of focused capacity building support that are tailored towards individual Member States development needs.
5. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2024 with the purpose of enhancing efficiency in the delivery of TC projects, including through linking the content of the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) to national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking into account the Member States national legal frameworks and priorities.
6. The Group would also like to recall the established process of the medium-term national planning mechanisms, such as CPFs, regional profiles and strategic frameworks through which the

needs of Member States are identified and defined. Any changes to the established TC programmatic approach by the Secretariat should be considered in close consultation with Member States.

7. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC Programme. In this context, the Group reiterates that the present guidelines and criteria as contained in INFCIRC/267 for the screening of TC project proposals, programme implementation and subsequent evaluation are sufficient and effective.

8. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need to identify technical cooperation projects that enhance access to technology, including by considering requests for support by Member States to develop enabling infrastructure. To this end, the Group calls upon the Agency to work with Member States, to foster Triangular Cooperation, particularly among developing countries, leading to cost-effective and fit for purpose solutions.

Madam Chair,

9. The Group notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TC Fund (TCF) for 2024, as of 31 December 2024, was 95%, a decrease in comparison to 2023. The Group commends the past efforts exerted by the Secretariat in this regard, and requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to improve the rate of attainment on pledges and payments to the TCF. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the successful implementation of the TC Programme and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time.

10. The Group notes with concern that despite the increasing number of developing countries receiving technical cooperation from the Agency, the resources for the TC Programme, both financial and human, have not increased in tandem. This situation becomes all the more striking when comparing the TCF to the funds available for the non-promotional activities. The Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat to include in future reports the details of the increasing number of participants in the TC Programme and increasing demands over the past several years.

11. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and as called for by the General Conference repeatedly in its resolutions on Technical Cooperation. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to Major Programme 6, in order to facilitate the successful delivery of the TC Programme in light of the growing demand.

12. The Group further appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States, the private sector and other non-traditional donors to the TC Programme. In addition, the Group notes the decision of some countries to participate in the government cost-sharing mechanism. The Group underscores, though, that extrabudgetary contributions cannot be a reliable source of funding. The Group, therefore, remains concerned about the increased reliance on extrabudgetary contributions for the delivery of the TC Programme and its potential impact on the funding being sufficient, assured and predictable. Extrabudgetary contributions therefore should not and cannot replace the TC Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism essential to a stable and strategic TC Programme.

Madam Chair,

13. The Group takes note of the important contribution the Agency's TC Programme could make to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs as well as to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to help Member States to benefit from the synergies between the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the TC Programme, while recognizing their specificities. The Group maintains that alignment with the SDGs should not constitute a limitation or condition for TC projects, nor a tool for their reprioritization. The Group also holds the view that the SDGs places a greater demand for additional resources to address the increasing socio-economic challenges and to meet the developmental needs of developing countries.

14. In this regard, the Group also reiterates its strong position that TC should not be subject to any form of conditionality, which is inconsistent with the statute of the IAEA and the guiding principles and operating rules as contained in INFCIRC/267 and requests the Secretariat to continue to adhere to them.

Madam Chair,

15. The Group appreciates the Agency's emergency response provided during the reporting period and would like to express its concern regarding the ongoing situation in the Observer State of Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip. In this regard, the Group recalls its statement at the 68th General Conference in September 2024 and Paragraph 8 on the 2024 TACC Report and reiterates its request for urgent technical assistance to the Observer State of Palestine.

16. The Group encourages the Secretariat to provide support and contribute to the effective delivery of cancer diagnosis, management and treatment in the Observer State of Palestine, by providing, upon request, equipment and strengthening human resource capabilities, including through the Rays of Hope Initiative. The Group supports the discussions between the Observer State of Palestine and the Secretariat on the planning of a possible off cycle TC project to be implemented for the assistance in several areas, inter alia, in health, agriculture, soil and water management, food safety and control; with the provision of training and capacity-building for the Palestinian specialists.

17. The Group calls upon the Agency to provide the relevant technical support upon request, aimed at examining the magnitude of the threat that radioactive sources in destroyed hospitals, if any, can pose on public health and the environment in the Observer State of Palestine.

Madam Chair,

18. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the quality of the TC Programme by providing support to the Member States to ensure that the projects for the next TC cycle are relevant, effective, sustainable, have measurable and attainable objectives, and offer greater opportunities for social and economic benefits and long-term national development impact.

19. The Group reiterates its call on the Agency to address long-standing obstacles such as delays and denials of equipment, as well as travel and visa restrictions arbitrarily imposed by a number of Member States, which negatively impact programme delivery and the rate of implementation.

Madam Chair,

20. The Group reiterates that alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDFs) should not be made a requirement for TC projects. However, the Group takes note of the Agency's increasing visibility within the UN system which may allow the Agency to identify linkages between the goals and objectives of the CPFs and, where appropriate, those of the UNSDF in order to facilitate close coordination with UN agencies to address national priorities in sustainable development.

21. In this context, the Group reiterates the vital role of the National Liaison Officers (NLOs) in TC project design and implementation. The continued strengthening of the NLOs' management capabilities, together with the strengthening of the role of the Programme Management Officer (PMO) and the coordination with the Permanent Missions in Vienna, would be essential to enhance country programme delivery. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation for the Agency's support in strengthening the role of the NLO, in particular through the bilateral and virtual NLO meetings. The Group welcomes the inclusion of gender as a consideration in TC project design as appropriate. Moreover, the Group supports the Agency's efforts to expand female participation from developing countries in the TC programme, including through encouraging Member States to nominate female NLOs, meeting and workshop participants, fellows and scientific visitors, and counterparts.

22. The Group underlines the importance of cancer control in developing countries and urges the IAEA to continue building capacities in developing countries, including those that still have no access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy. The Group encourages the Agency to continue addressing Member States' requirements for comprehensive cancer control capacity and needs through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), the Rays of Hope initiative and to foster more regional PACT programmes. The Group highly commends the continued efforts to strengthen collaboration of the Agency with leading cancer organizations and other partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), including in the conduct of imPACT reviews. The Group further welcomes the strengthening of existing partnerships with governments, the private sector and international financing institutions, including under the Rays of Hope initiative.

23. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2024 contained in document GOV/2025/17.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



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Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for issuing the proposal of the Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2026-2027, and the Working Paper as contained in 2025/Note 32. The Group also wishes to thank and congratulate the Co-Chairs, the distinguished Ambassadors of Ireland and South Africa, for their leadership throughout this important and complex process.
2. Recognizing the current financial constraints, the Group takes note of the proposal of the Co-Chairs, and stresses that the Agency should minimize any negative impact on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which remains its main statutory function and a vital tool for supporting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy especially in developing countries.
3. The resources for the TCP must be sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP), and that any cost containment measures should not compromise the balance between promotional and non-promotional activities, nor impair the delivery of TC projects.
4. The Group reiterates its position that any future increases in the regular budget should be reflected in the same level on the TCF targets.
5. Finally, the Group underscores that any action by the Board on the proposal by the Co-Chairs should not set a precedent for future budget cycles. The methodology set out in GOV/INF/2018/8 should continue to be the starting point for the issuance of the Draft Programme and Budget for the next biennia, as well as the IPFs for the TCF Targets.
6. With these comments, the Group is ready to join consensus on the Agency's Programme and Budget 2026-2027 as revised by the Co-Chairs proposal as contained in 2025/Note 32.

Thank you, Madam Chair.