



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC)
of the IAEA, 17 November 2025,
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Matilda Aku Alomatu Osei-Agyeman,
Permanent Representative of Ghana**

Agenda Item 2: Technical Cooperation, The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2026-2027

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2026-2027, as contained in documents GOV/2025/59, Add 1 and Add 2 as well as Mr. Hua Liu, Deputy Director General, and the staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation for the briefing provided to Member States. We also thank DDG for his introductory remarks under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group reiterates the paramount importance of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) as the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of encouraging and assisting research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world. The TCP plays an important role for the sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the Group stresses the role of the IAEA TCP as a major mechanism in transferring and access to nuclear technology, materials, equipment and expertise to Member States for peaceful purposes.

3. The Group also reiterates that the TCP is a shared responsibility and the result of the combined efforts between the IAEA technical Departments and the Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is based on the needs and evolving priorities of those Member States in which TC projects are implemented. In this regard, the Group reiterates that "the nature, extent and scope of technical assistance to be provided to the requesting State or group of States shall be defined by the Government or Governments concerned", as is the established practice and is reflected in paragraph (f) of the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267), and in preambular paragraph (m) of Resolution GC(68)/RES/10, as per the decision of the 69th session of the General Conference. The Group is of the view that this important principle should continue to guide the provision of Technical Cooperation by the Agency and requests the Secretariat to reflect it explicitly in future proposed Programmes, in particular in the section on the programming process.

4. The Group appreciates the Agency's technical cooperation activities and cooperation with the Observer State of Palestine as reflected in Technical Cooperation Programme 2026-2027. The Group recalls Paragraph 8 on the 2024 TACC Report, remains concerned regarding the ongoing

situation in the Observer State of Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, and reiterates its request for urgent technical assistance to the Observer State of Palestine, as well as relevant technical support 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.

5. The Group recalls the adoption of Resolution GC(69)/RES/10 on “Extending the Technical Cooperation Programme for the State of Palestine to the Gaza Strip,” and emphasizes the importance of the Board of Governors endorsement of this resolution. The Group also requests the Secretariat to implement this resolution as soon as possible.

Mr. Chair,

6. The Group notes that Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) target for 2026 is € 98 million, as per the recommendation submitted to the Board of Governors. The Group also notes that a rate of attainment of 94% has been used as a basis for calculating the resources that are expected to be available and that this Committee is consequently expected to recommend the sum of up to € 100 719 985 to the Board for approval.

7. The Group emphasises the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the TCP and while appreciating the continued commitment of Member States over the year. The Group also requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to achieve high-level rates of attainment on payments to the TCF. In this regard, the Group expresses its concern with the low rate of attainment for 2025 compared to previous years and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in full and on time.

8. The Group reiterates its view that the resources available for the TC Programme should be sufficient, assured and predictable to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and should be increased taking into account the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs), the increasing number of Member States with a national TCP, the increasing needs of the developing countries and the unmet demands in this regard, the evolution in the level of the regular budget, the Board’s decision of June 2016 to place the appropriate emphasis on the Agency’s activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States, the large unfunded components of TC projects in Member States, also termed as footnote a/ projects, the price increases and other relevant factors.

9. The Group notes that the total Footnote-a/ activities amount to €69.3 million in 2026 and to €57.1 million in 2027. These figures show that the current level of resources available falls short of the resources needed. The significant amount of the proposed funding of the Footnote-a/activities for 2026-2027, more than 60% of the TCF targets, indicates an urgent need to increase the TCF targets for the upcoming years in order to meet the increasing demands of Member States. The Group further stresses the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between the Agency’s promotional and non-promotional activities.

10. The Group also 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.

11. The Group looks forward to the active participation of the IAEA and DG Grossi in the ongoing United Nations 2025 Climate Change Conference (COP30). The Group takes positive note of the efforts of the Agency in promoting peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and other nuclear applications and techniques as a means to help mitigate and adapt to Climate Change and achieve zero carbon emissions.

12. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

13. With these remarks, the Group joins the consensus in having the Committee recommend to the Board the actions listed in the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation Programme as contained in document GOV/2025/59, as well as Add 1 and Add 2, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Agenda item 3: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2025

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for presenting its evaluation of the Agency's technical cooperation activities in 2025. The Group also thanks the OIOS for the technical briefing provided.

2. The Group continues to attach great importance to the work of the OIOS to strengthen the Agency's ability to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness, and to enhance accountability. The Group also takes note of the evaluation results of the Regional Country-level Evaluation and Audit (CLEA-R) undertaken in 2025, with the intention of helping to strengthen the management of TC activities through systematic solutions.

3. The Group also takes note of the TC related oversight assignments finalized during 2025: the CLEA-R of the Agency's Work in Europe and Central Asia.

4. The Group notes the reduction of the overall cost of the OIOS activities compared to those that were reported to the TACC in 2024. The Group stresses that the OIOS should, in the course of their regular work and within resources allocated to these offices from the Regular Budget, evaluate projects, in a balanced manner across all major programmes. In this regard, the Group encourages the OIOS to perform evaluations of the activities of the other departments in the Agency.

5. The Group stresses the importance of a balanced allocation of resources for evaluation purposes between TC-related activities and other activities of the Agency, which require similarly intensive evaluation, since these activities account for a larger portion of the Agency's budget. Given the increasing demands on the Agency's budgetary, human and other resources, the Group encourages the OIOS to carry out its audit and evaluation functions in an effective and judicious manner, utilizing opportunities for synergies presented by other existing audit, evaluation and assessment mechanisms in the Agency and in the Member States. The Group notes that the CLEA-R exercise for 2025 combined audit and evaluation methodologies to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Agency's performance and facilitate a more efficient and effective comparative study.

6. In terms of methodology, the Group looks forward for a comprehensive evaluation of all TC projects in future OIOS reports. An evaluation of the efficiency and adequacy of TC projects, based on a results-oriented approach, which would provide valuable insights into their impact and areas for improvement and help ensure that the delivery of nuclear science and technology applications aligns effectively with the specific needs of Member States. The Group further notes previous OIOS findings that some TC projects reach successful pilot outcomes but fall short of systematic scaling and replication, and therefore encourages the Secretariat to keep track of relevant projects and integrate, as applicable, clear pathways for upscaling and follow-through in TC project design and monitoring frameworks.

7. The Group notes that the Report on the Regional Country-level Evaluation and Audit of the Agency's Work in Africa, presented in 2024, emphasizes nine CLEA-R recommendations to be implemented by the Secretariat. The Group also notes that the Report on Evaluation of the Regional and Interregional Projects of the Agency's TCP, also presented in 2024, underscores seven recommendations to be implemented by the Secretariat. More information about the progress of implementation of those recommendations, of which only one is considered closed, would be welcome.

8. Regarding the recommendations of this year's report, the Group appreciates that the Secretariat agreed to timescales for the implementation of actions to address the accepted recommendations made by evaluations and looks forward to reporting on their implementation.

9. The Group notes that 10 Programme Evaluation Recommendations and 34 Internal Audit Recommendations are overdue this year and further notes that the number of overdue recommendations from reports issued until 2024 has increased from 29 in August 2024 to 34 in August 2025. However, it is pertinent to note that the overdue recommendations for both the

Programme Evaluation and Internal Audit are not only related to TC activities but are also related to Agency-wide activities. Such a fact underlines the importance of striking a balanced approach in evaluating all the activities of the Agency. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue working towards the implementation of these recommendations, as appropriate.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group takes note of the key cross-cutting findings and recommendations highlighted in the synthesis report of 2023. In particular, the Group notes that the CLEA-R identified systematic delays in the implementation of national and regional projects compared to the planned timelines, while stressing that procurement timelines are the leading cause of these delays. Every measure in order to enhance effectiveness of the TCP is welcome. In this regard, the Group urges that the comments made in the report are taken into consideration without further delay, and looks forward to the results of the related management tools.

11. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

12. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2025, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.