



**G-77 and China statement during the  
Informal Meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee,  
6 February 2026,  
delivered by H.E. Shambhu S. Kumaran,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of India**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

1. The G-77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for issuing the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2027 contained in GOV/2026/1 and for the presentation provided today.
2. The Group takes note of the draft budget update for 2027 and is studying it carefully.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group notes that the Draft Budget Update for 2027 maintains the Agency's programme for the 2026–2027 biennium, as approved in GC(69)/6, and that it represents zero nominal growth (ZNG), instead of the originally envisaged zero real-growth (ZRG) as per the agreed methodology. Therefore, the non-application of the price adjustment for a second year of the biennium represents another reduction of 3.8% per annum.
4. In this regard, the Group recalls that the 2026-2027 budget was the product of significant compromise, with the result that both the regular budget and the TCF allocations fall below what the Group consider necessary to maintain the Agency functioning in these areas.
5. The Group notes that for 2027 the target figure for voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund shall be €98 000 000, as contained in GOV/2026/1. The Group stresses the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC programme in order to achieve the objectives of the Agency, as laid out in Article II of the Statute.
6. The Group maintains its position that the current proposed update for the 2027 budget as well as the Agency's programme for the 2026-2027 biennium does not constitute a precedent against the price adjustment methodology outlined in document GOV/INF/2018/8.
7. The Group reaffirms its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three Statutory pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including Technical Cooperation, (b) Safety and (c) Safeguards. The Group further reiterates its principled position that the Agency's Programme and Budget should represent a balance between promotional and non-promotional activities and that the Secretariat should increase its focus on the key aspects of the promotional activities which serve the interests of Member States, particularly developing countries.
8. In relation to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), the Group stresses that the TCF targets should be determined in tandem with the changes made in the level of the operational regular budget, including price adjustments. In addition, the TCF targets should also take into account the increase in the number of Member States that draw on the TCF and other relevant factors.

9. The Group further notes the increase in the unfunded component of the proposed budget. The Group supports the Director General's commitment to enlarge the donor base, including by forging new partnerships with non-traditional donors. Further, the Group wishes to reiterate the need to ensure that seeking funds for extra budgetary projects should not adversely impact the Technical Cooperation Programme, especially the financing of footnote-a/ projects. In this regard, the goal of achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the Technical Cooperation Program remains a priority for the G-77.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group has taken note of the sustainable efficiencies achieved in the last two biennial programmes and budgets, which remain valid for 2026–2027, including previously reported cost-saving measures of approximately €4.4 million. The Group also notes efforts to contain travel costs through optimisation of trip numbers, duration, and participants, supported by digital technologies, as well as the Agency's use of advanced digital solutions, including artificial intelligence, to improve administrative and business efficiency. The Group requests further information on the implementation and possible impact of these measures. It has been the Group's consistent position that such measures should not negatively impact the promotional activities of the Agency in particular the delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme, or the participation of experts from the developing countries in the Agency's activities.

11. The Group takes note of the proposal for revising the Agency's Working Capital Fund as presented in the non-paper referenced 2026/Note1. The Group looks forward to participating in the informal consultations on the options presented therein.

12. The Group notes with appreciation that the HR cost continues to remain within the 75% cap established by the Director General in the previous biennia, and that the current overall share of staff costs is at 74% of the operational regular budget. The Group reiterates its request to allocate the resources thus saved to TC activities.

13. The Group underscores the need to intensify efforts to ensure equitable geographical distribution and to maintain gender balance among the Agency's staff, in accordance with GC(69)/16, and the participation of experts in the Agency's activities, and, in line with the aforementioned principle, to increase the number of staff members from developing countries which are unrepresented or under-represented in the Agency's Secretariat, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels.

14. Concerning possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group notes the implementation by the Director General of a set of cost containment measures as described in GOV/INF/2025/3. The Group looks forward to further update from the Secretariat on this matter, including the development of long-term measures.

15. Finally, the Group will keep engaging constructively in the discussion of the draft budget update for 2027.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.