



**Statement by the G-77 and China
during the 2nd Informal Open-Ended Consultations
on the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and
the Technical Cooperation Programme, 25 March 2024,
to be delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia**

I would like to deliver the following statement on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank you for convening this Second Informal Open-Ended Consultations, as well as for the final version of the concept note submitted on 20 February 2024 on GovAtom and for today's presentations on progress made since the 2018 Ministerial Conference.
2. The Group recalls that the mandate leading to this Ministerial Conference was first raised and communicated by all Member States through the 2015 GC resolutions and reaffirmed in each of the successive following GC resolutions, including of 2023. The Group believes that the process and its substance should be guided in full by the principles and spirit of those resolutions.
3. The Group further recalls the Ministerial Conference held in 2018 which requested the Secretariat to organize a follow-up Conference in the coming years and takes note that the convening of this follow-up conference has been postponed twice due to the unprecedented restrictions posed by COVID-19.
4. The Group is confident that the ongoing process under the leadership of the Co-Chairs, the Ambassador of Finland, HE Ms Nina VASKUNLAHTI, and the Ambassador of Ghana, HE Mr Philbert ABAKA JOHNSON, will achieve the expected outcomes. The Group wishes to underscore that this should be a Member States-driven process. The Group welcomes efforts of the Co-Chairs thus far, and while it is noting the Conference's planned organization of work as highlighted today, the Group considers this plan to be a step in the right direction.
5. The Group is of the view that this Ministerial Conference should equally emphasize on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses, centrally carried out by the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, as well as its delivery, done through the Department of Technical Cooperation, and therefore expects the continued joint collaboration of both Departments in organizing the Conference with the assistance of any other relevant departments.
6. The Group considers the Conference as a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the Agency in accordance with Article II of the Statute in the promotion of the inalienable right for peaceful uses of nuclear technology without discrimination.
7. On the suggested thematic sessions, the Group would like to provide the following preliminary views:

- a. The thematic sessions should address development of nuclear technologies and applications, with a focus on how knowledge and technologies are delivered to Member States through the TC Programme, particularly best practices, lessons learned and challenges faced in their delivery, and highlight their contribution to socio-economic development, including to the attainment of the SDGs.
- b. The Group is of the view that the Conference, in any relevant thematic session, should discuss the Agency's role in supporting the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of technology and the enhancement of capacity-building to developing countries, including through south-south and triangular cooperation and especially making use of their built-in capacity.
- c. Furthermore, the Group is of the view that discussions on the role of nuclear energy in meeting energy demands and their corresponding positive impact, particularly in ensuring energy security and climate change mitigation and adaptation, should be part of the relevant session.
- d. While the Group will consider the proposed sessions carefully, we welcome the support provided by the Agency to assist Member States to use nuclear science and technologies in climate change mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, the Group takes note of the proposal by the Co-Chairs to conduct a thematic session on climate change, given the cross cutting impact of this topic on the Agency's diverse areas of action, such as health and nutrition, food and agriculture and water and the environment.
- e. The Group welcomes the thematic sessions dedicated to Health and Food safety and security, areas of utmost importance for developing countries.
- f. The Group further strongly requests to add a separate thematic session on the TC Programme, which is of paramount importance for the Group as it is the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries.

Co-chairs,

8. Regarding the outcome of the Conference, in accordance with the Vienna Spirit, the Group stresses the need for a concrete and consensual outcome document, with the aim of further strengthening the Agency's role in promoting applications of Nuclear Energy for peaceful uses, including their delivery to Member States through the Agency's TC Programme.
9. On the duration of the Conference, the Group would like to stress the importance of preserving a smooth transition from one session to another and to ensure that sufficient time is available to address all topics equally and in an effective manner.
10. In conclusion, the Group expects that the aforementioned views will be reflected in the structure and content of the thematic sessions and panels of the Conference and reiterates its readiness to engage constructively through the Informal Open-Ended Consultations in order to meet the aspirations of Member States for a successful Conference.

Thank you Co-Chairs.