



**G-77 and China Statement during the 68<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference,  
16-20 September 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Ambassador Laura Gil,  
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**Agenda Item 15: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the adoption by consensus of the resolution on *Strengthening of the Agency's Technical Cooperation activities*. In this regard, the Group expresses its gratitude to all Member States that have co-sponsored it. The Group would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its principled position regarding the Agency's TC mandate.
2. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology and equipment 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 TCP 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 we just adopted.
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 the Secretariat 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 Least developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the development of focused capacity building support that is tailored towards individual Member States' development needs.
5. The Group commends the efforts exerted by the Secretariat in this regard, and 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. The Group also requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to improve the rate of attainment on pledges and payments to the TCF. The Group thanks those Member States who have pledged their contributions to the TCF for 2025 at this session of the GC.
6. 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.
7. 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. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to the management of the TC Programme, in order to facilitate its successful delivery in light of the growing demand.
8. The Group further appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States, the private sector and other non-traditional donors to the TC Programme. The Group underscores 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.

9. 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. 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.

10. In this regard, the Group 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. The Group emphasizes the Agency's role in conducting capacity building activities across its programme of work, particularly for emergency preparedness and response.

11. The Group also 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.

Mr. Chair,

12. The Group underscores 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.

13. We recall the Third South Summit Outcome Document, issued in Kampala in January 2024. The Group emphasizes the importance of respecting and implementing the relevant UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions as well as the provisional measures and orders of the International Court of Justice.

14. In that vein, the Group expresses its deep concern with the ongoing situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza strip and is gravely concerned about the devastating and continuous attacks on the health infrastructure, including hospitals for cancer care in the Gaza Strip. This has led so far to the destruction of 24 of 36 hospitals, some of which contain radioactive sources. We call upon the IAEA to consider undertaking measures aimed at examining the magnitude of the threat that these sources pose on public health and the environment in the Gaza Strip.

15. The Group stresses the IAEA's role in strengthening radiation therapy and medical imaging to meet national needs for diagnosis, management and treatment in general, and further stresses the urgently needed support of operational medical facilities that are receiving internally displaced people seeking imaging and treatment services in the Gaza strip.

16. The Group requests the IAEA to enhance its support through the TC programme in the West Bank. The Group encourages the Secretariat to provide support and contribute to the effective delivery of cancer diagnosis, management and treatment in the occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in the Gaza strip, by providing, upon request, equipment and strengthening human resource capabilities, including through the Rays of Hope initiative. The Group supports the discussions between the State of Palestine and the Secretariat on the planning of a possible off cycle TC project to be implemented in the Gaza Strip.

I thank you, Mr Chair.