



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the March Board of Governors meeting
of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
3-7 March 2025,
delivered by H.E. Maurice Makoloo,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kenya**

Agenda item 3: Nuclear and Radiation Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2025

Madam Chair,

1. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Safety Review 2025, as contained in document GOV/2025/5. The Group also thanks the Director General for his introductory statement, as well as the Secretariat for the technical briefing offered to Member States on 11 February.

Madam Chair,

2. The Group is pleased to note the Agency's continued assistance to Member States has led to progress in the area of nuclear safety in 2024. While reaffirming that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State, the Group emphasizes the need to enhance international cooperation on all nuclear safety-related matters. In this regard, the Group reiterates that the Agency has a central role in coordinating efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, by providing assistance through expertise and advice to Member States, upon request.

3. The Group recalls the Nuclear Safety resolution during GC68, which encourages the Agency to continue providing technical support and assistance to interested Member States in maintaining and improving nuclear safety and security for nuclear facilities and activities involving radioactive sources, including during armed conflicts, and to enhance this support and assistance upon request. In this regard the Group reiterates its call to the Agency to undertake measures aimed at examining the magnitude of the threat that radioactive sources, if any, in destroyed hospitals can pose on public health and the environment in the Gaza Strip and in Member States or territories of the Group, and to provide the relevant technical support upon request.

4. In accordance with this belief, the Group welcomes the issuance of a new General Safety Guides and seven Specific Safety Guides.

5. The Group recalls the adoption, in February 2015, of the "Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety", which aims to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide through agreed principles to guide the Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the implementation of the objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) with the focus on preventing accidents with radiological consequences and by mitigating such consequences should they occur. We call on the Agency to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the principles of the Vienna Declaration.

6. The Group reiterates the importance of the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, including the commitment to women empowerment in the

Agency. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that the Agency should continue to support the participation of experts, including of the women, from developing countries, with a focus on gender mainstreaming, particularly in the Safety Standards Committees, the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, as well as the Interface Group.

7. The Group takes note that the report covers trends and priorities for all the nuclear safety related topics. In this regard, the Group takes note of the efforts of the Secretariat in providing explanations on the Nuclear Safety Review and reiterates its request to the Secretariat to clarify their methodology in identifying the trends and determining the priorities in future Nuclear Safety Reviews in relation to the Nuclear Safety Report.

8. The Group recognizes the importance of and appreciates the assistance provided by the Agency to its Member States, upon request, in strengthening their national nuclear safety architecture, for both power and non-power application including regulatory infrastructure for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and in the field of emergency preparedness and response. The Group notes the alignment of the capacity-building assistance for regulatory bodies with the Agency's flagship initiatives.

9. Recognizing that more than thirty Member States, many of which are members of the Group, are at different stages of initiating new nuclear power programmes, we encourage the Agency to increase support to such embarking Member States and recognize the importance of strengthening and expanding nuclear safety standards in this regard.

10. The Group welcomes the importance of the support provided by the Agency on nuclear legal frameworks to 31 Member States, many of which are members of the Group, with country-specific bilateral legislative assistance.

11. The Group emphasizes that capacity-building, including the development of human resources, expert training and the up-scaling of knowledge and capabilities are key to the establishment, as well as to the safety and sustainability of any nuclear program. The Group also notes that Member States continue to request support regarding their knowledge management and national capacity-building programmes. Therefore, it is essential that the IAEA continue to provide such assistance, upon request, on national, regional and international levels, to developing countries in building their expertise in the relevant technical areas.

12. The Group highlights the importance of the development of a safety culture. In this regard, we note that an increasing number of Member States are requesting assistance in further developing their leadership and management programmes for safety and continuous improvement process, including safety culture assessments. The Group further notes the Agency's activities aiming to assist Member States in their efforts to develop, foster and sustain safety culture.

13. In view of the increasing use of radiation and nuclear material and technologies, in Member States, the Group notes that there is a growing need for assistance in strengthening regulatory oversight, education and training programmes, guidance documents, peer reviews and advisory services from the Agency for the entire life cycle management. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide assistance, upon request, to Member States in these important areas and welcomes the regular organization by the Agency of national, regional, and international workshops, webinars and training courses for Member States on all relevant issues.

14. The Group appreciates that in 2024 the Agency conducted 45 peer review and advisory services across all aspects of nuclear safety, in those specific Member States. We note the recommendations and advice to interested Member States including for regulatory body's independence, capacity-building, safety regulations, leadership, safety culture, waste management strategies, and radiological protection. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.

15. In view also of the increasing interest of Member States in small and medium sized or modular reactors (SMRs) on account of their potential contribution, in the fight to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change, for States which choose to have a nuclear power programme and bearing in mind the need to decrease anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, the Group notes the development of a new interregional TC project that aims to support Member States build their capacity on SMRs and calls on the Agency to continue supporting interested countries in the development and deployment of this emerging nuclear power technology. In this regard, the Group welcomes the continued implementation of the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI), which reflects Member States' interest in this subject.

16. The Group recognizes the importance of SMRs as an emerging tool to harness the benefits of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. We take note of the references made in the IAEA Nuclear Safety Review regarding safety and security approaches to SMRs and the ongoing efforts to discuss these issues, including in the NHSI. The Group reiterates its position that these considerations will not constitute any preconditions nor prejudice to the inalienable rights of Member States to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and will be in accordance with the principle of the exclusive responsibility of a State for its nuclear safety and security.

17. 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.

18. Regarding the Radiation Protection of Patients, Workers and the Public, the Group notes that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to apply the principles of justification and optimization in circumstances where actions are being considered to reduce radiation exposure. The Group urges the Agency to continue to assist Member States in providing guidance, as well as in strengthening their processes for communicating of radiation risk to the public in planned and existing exposure situations and during an emergency.

Madam Chair,

19. The Group notes that Member States continue to show increasing interest in the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network platform. The Group reiterates that knowledge networks should always remain a core component of the nuclear safety capacity-building initiatives with the support of the Agency. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued support to regional networks, which include the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators, the Asian Nuclear Safety

Network, the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, as well as to thematic networks such as the Small Modular Reactor Regulator's Forum.

20. The Group notes that the Secretariat has identified the trends and activities incorporating the use of new and emerging technologies including artificial intelligence in support of Member States' efforts in strengthening their national nuclear safety framework. The Group acknowledges that these technologies present both opportunities and challenges. The Group reiterates that there should be equitable access to and development of Member States' capacities, particularly developing countries, to understand, acquire and utilize these technologies. The Group requests the Secretariat to provide further information on the use of artificial intelligence in the Agency's activities, including in nuclear safety.

21. The Group is of the view that strengthening global nuclear safety depends on the full cooperation among Member States and relevant stakeholders. Vendors of nuclear technologies also have a responsibility to provide users with access to all information, know-how and tools necessary for safe operation.

22. The Group expresses its support for the Agency's work in continuing to build upon the 2011 Action Plan and Member States' experience in its implementation, as well as the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, and the principles in the Vienna Declaration and take them into consideration for defining its programme of work in close consultations with Member States. The Group requests the Secretariat to report periodically to the Board of Governors, in accordance with section 1 of Resolution GC(68)/RES/8.

23. The Group notes that the Agency will continue monitoring and assessment activities at Fukushima Daiichi NPS related to the ongoing discharges of ALPS treated water. The Group appreciates the Secretariat to continue informing Member States of developments, as well as maintaining ongoing communication and conducting long-term comprehensive monitoring and assessment activities.

24. The Group notes that the number of published Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS) continued high in 2024 and that the regular analysis of the new information uploaded on EPRIMS allowed the Agency to review the progress made in technical cooperation projects and to identify global trends in national EPR arrangements based on Agency safety standards. Despite the meaningful work done by the Agency in the field of emergency preparedness and response, the Group notes that more work needs to be done. It, therefore, encourages continued cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and interested Member States, in this regard.

25. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue. In this regard, the Group continues to follow the works of the Denial of Shipment Working Group for the period 2023-2026 which should propose effective and sustainable solution to this issue.

26. The Group welcomes the growth in the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention).

Madam Chair,

27. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Safety Review 2025, as contained in document GOV/2025/5.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



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Agenda Item 4: Nuclear Security: Nuclear Security Review 2025

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 Nuclear Security Review 2025 as contained in document GOV/2025/6 and for the informal briefing provided on 11 February.
2. The Group notes that the fourth edition of the Nuclear Security Review reflects the global trends in 2024 and presents planned Agency activities for 2025 and priorities, as identified by the Agency and Member States, including through the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, for strengthening nuclear security.
3. In this regard, the Group would like to reiterate the following principled positions.
 - Firstly, the Group emphasizes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State and that the Agency provides support to Member States in strengthening their national Nuclear Security capacity, upon their request.
 - Secondly, while the Group recognizes the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security, it emphasizes that priorities of the Agency and scope of its activities in this field must be determined by Member States based on their needs and must be guided by the General Conference Resolutions on Nuclear Security. In this connection, the Group recalls and encourages the Secretariat to implement the provisions of paragraph 22 of the 2024 General Conference Resolution - GC(68)/RES/9 – which requests the Secretariat to assess, in collaboration with Member States, the value and complementarity of the Nuclear Security Review with the Nuclear Security Report, while taking into account available resources, and to enhance its efforts in coordinating the Nuclear Security Review with the Nuclear Security Report and the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025;
 - Thirdly, the Group reiterates 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 that it should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

4. The Group recalls the Nuclear Security Resolution adopted at last year's General Conference, which encourages the Secretariat to consult with Member States during the development of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan (NSP) 2026–2029, with the aim of aligning the Plan with their respective priorities and needs. The Group acknowledges the important role the Secretariat plays in preparing the NSP drafts, nonetheless the Group reiterates its principled position that the consultation process should be driven by Member States and further expects that the upcoming NSP draft will incorporate the principles of the Group mentioned above.

5. 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.

6. The Group recognizes the importance of SMRs as an emerging tool to harness the benefits of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. We take note of the references made in the IAEA Nuclear Security Review regarding safety and security approaches to SMRs and the ongoing efforts to discuss these issues, including in the NHSI. The Group reiterates its position that these considerations will not constitute any preconditions nor prejudice to the inalienable rights of Member States to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and will be in accordance with the principle of the exclusive responsibility of a State for its nuclear safety and security.

7. The Group notes that the Secretariat has identified the trends and activities incorporating the use of new and emerging technologies including artificial intelligence in support of Member States' efforts in strengthening their national nuclear security framework. The Group acknowledges that these technologies present both opportunities and challenges. The Group reiterates that there should be equitable access to and development of Member States' capacities, particularly developing countries, to understand, acquire and utilize these technologies. The Group requests the Secretariat to provide further information on the use of artificial intelligence in the Agency's activities, including in nuclear security.

8. The Group further underscores that language and terminology employed in the Nuclear Security Review must adhere to the consensus achieved in the GC Resolutions and the Ministerial Declarations on Nuclear Security.

Thank you, Madam Chair.