



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the
IAEA Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee
Vienna, 16 November 2020
Agenda item 2: The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2021**

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States. [The following countries align themselves with this statement: Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Iceland⁺, Serbia^{*}, Albania^{*}, Bosnia and Herzegovina^{*}, Liechtenstein⁺, Norway⁺, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. *The EU and its Member States wish to thank the Director General for his Report on the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2021, as contained in document GOV/2020/44. We also thank DDG Dazhu Yang for the informative online briefing, as well as for his introductory remarks.*
3. The EU and its Member States would like to reiterate, once again, our strong support to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. We fully recognise its importance as a primary mechanism of the Agency for the transfer of nuclear technology to Member States as well as its contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The EU commends once again the work of the IAEA in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak to provide timely assistance to Member States in their efforts to tackle the pandemic, including through the provision of detection equipment and diagnostic kits together with guidance and trainings.
5. In view of the Programme implementation for 2021, we wish to recall that the delivery of Technical Cooperation assistance should continue in a needs-based and non-discriminatory manner, including in the fields of nuclear safety and security, which remains one of the priority areas for Europe. We welcome the increased number of signed Revised Supplementary Agreements (RSAs) and call upon those Member States wishing to receive technical assistance that have yet to sign such an agreement to do so as soon as possible. The RSA's should be a precondition for benefiting from the TCP as should the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) to ensure national ownership.

[§] Candidate Country

^{*} Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

⁺ Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

6. We encourage the Agency to continue its work in close partnership with Member States, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society in order to optimise the contribution of nuclear science and technology, within the broader framework of the international development agenda. In this regard, we particularly encourage the Agency to strengthen its participation in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Madam Chair,

7. We call upon the Secretariat to continue enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and results-based delivery of the TCP to maximise the Programme's impact. To this end, we encourage the TC Department and all technical Departments of the Agency to continue reinforcing cooperation and coordination, when designing and delivering TC projects, with a view to further enhancing the quality of the TCP. We also continue to support a consistent application of the results-based management approach.
8. The sustainability of the TC Programme depends on Member States contributing, on a voluntary basis, their share of the TC Fund target, as well as on extra-budgetary contributions, additional government cost sharing and in-kind support. We support the Agency's efforts to further strengthen the Programme's sustainability through the establishment of partnerships with other relevant organizations and non-traditional stakeholders and through the mobilization of new and existing resources. This is more than ever required for the significant number of footnote-a projects. It will be important to ensure sufficient TC funding despite the heavy toll taken by the current COVID crisis on governments' budgets.

Finally, Madam Chair,

9. We call on the Department of TC to continue mainstreaming gender in all TC activities and to bolster the participation of women in all areas of the TCP. The EU stands ready to cooperate closely with the Agency to further strengthen the IAEA's gender equality policy.
10. With these comments, the EU and its Member States support the recommended actions in document GOV/2020/44.

Thank you, Madam Chair.