



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the
IAEA Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee
Vienna, 16 November 2020
Agenda item 4: Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2020**

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. *I would like to thank the Director of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), Mr. Paul Manning, the entire staff of the OIOS and the Secretariat for preparing the report on “Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2020”, as contained in document GOV/2020/46 and its annexes. I also wish to thank the Director of OIOS for the technical briefing held on 10 November, as well as for his introductory remarks.*

Madam Chair,

3. The EU and its Member States stress once again the importance of objective and systematic evaluation and monitoring guided by the internationally recognized criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, results-based delivery and sustainability. The work of the OIOS is an indispensable component of project management, and we call on the Department of Technical Cooperation to make full use of the evaluation findings and recommendations in its future programme planning and implementation.
4. This year’s report has focused on three Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa. We note with satisfaction the OIOS’ conclusion that the Agency’s support, focusing in particular on capacity development in science and technology, was well aligned with the respective national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. Nonetheless, OIOS found that at strategic level, especially in the agricultural and food sector, IAEA interventions would benefit from being more embedded within the larger ecosystem of international development assistance. As mentioned in the report, the Agency has

[§] 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.

contributed to the enhanced technology capacity of counterparts, but with variations in development outcomes and in the sustainable use of the transferred technology.

5. We take note that OIOS was able to complete only three of the six Country-level Evaluation and Audits (CLEAs) due to COVID-19 restrictions. We would welcome the inclusion of the remaining CLEAs in the future evaluation work plan. Nonetheless, we welcome the additional focus, which OIOS placed on LDCs and the identification of the most common challenges affecting the effectiveness and sustainability of TC projects in these countries. We are pleased to see the increasing positive contribution of regional collaboration among LDCs in Africa, in particular through the African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) mechanism.

Madam Chair,

6. Regarding cross-cutting conclusions and recommendations, we welcome the Agency's commitment to the promotion of nuclear science and technology in Africa and the use of strong participatory and consultative approaches in the regional programmes. The Secretariat should take into account these outcomes in its draft action plan for LDCs. Identified shortcomings must nonetheless be addressed, in particular regarding the strategic focus of IAEA activities, such as longer-term capacity building, project management quality and sustainability planning.
7. Despite the integration of gender considerations in project design and implementation significant gaps remain, which continue to be of serious concern to us. We thus call upon the Secretariat to incorporate a gender equality perspective in the TC Department's monitoring approach and to implement the related OIOS recommendations.

Madam Chair,

8. The EU and its Member States appreciate that the Secretariat has accepted all recommendations issued by OIOS in 2020 and we look forward to their timely and full implementation. We reiterate the importance for the TC Department to continue working closely with the OIOS to address all TC-related recommendations, including those on the TC's corporate knowledge management and outcome monitoring approach, which will consolidate the overall quality, governance and accountability of the TCP.
9. The EU and its Member States continue to support the important work of the OIOS and we look forward to engaging with OIOS on its future evaluation work plan.
10. With these comments, we take note of document GOV/2020/46.

Thank you, Madam Chair