



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 2: The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2022-23

**Technical Assistance and Co-operation Committee
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 22 November 2021

Mr. Chairman,

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*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Iceland*, Norway*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

The EU and its Member States wish to thank the Director General for his Report on the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2022-23, as contained in document GOV/2021/45 and its two Addendums. We also thank DDG Hua Liu for the technical briefing delivered on 4 November, as well as for his introductory remarks.

The EU and its Member States reiterate their strong support to the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Programme. We fully recognise its importance as the main mechanism of transfer of nuclear technology to many Member States as well as its contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts in ensuring continued work and timely delivery of the TC projects observing the regular TC quality requirements despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We also welcome the Agency's prompt, comprehensive and strategically focused assistance provided to Member States in the context of the current pandemic through the interregional project 0098.

We recognize the IAEA's activities in supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and in particular the possible contribution of nuclear science and technology in areas such as human health, agriculture and food security, water management, climate change, environmental protection, preservation of cultural heritage.

[§]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 and Norway are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

Regarding the proposed TC Programme for 2022-23, we wish to reiterate the importance of the needs-based, demand-driven and non-discriminatory nature of the TCP, as well as Europe's priority area of nuclear safety and security as TC Fields of Activity.

The continuous increase in the total number of signed Revised Supplementary Agreements (RSAs) - reaching 142 out of 144 Member States - is a positive trend. The RSA's together with the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) should be a precondition for benefiting from the TCP to ensure close linkages with national development priorities and strong government commitment and ownership.

We encourage the Agency to continue its technical cooperation activities 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 in accordance with national development goals and the SDGs. In this regard, we encourage the Agency to strengthen its participation in and benefit from being part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Mr. Chairman,

We renew our call to the Secretariat to continue enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and results-based delivery of the TCP to maximise the Programme's impact. In this context, we recall this year's OIOS major findings on the evaluation of Agency internal collaboration in the TC project design phase, which assessed that cooperation and coordination between Secretariat's Departments is a critical component in the TC project cycle and an essential element in improving quality of the TCP. We also continue to support a consistent application of the results-based management approach.

The sustainability of the TC Programme depends on the commitment of all involved stakeholders. Thus, Member States' voluntary contributions to meet their TC Fund target shares, extra-budgetary contributions, additional government cost sharing and in-kind support are essential, as well as full payment of national participation costs. We support the Agency's efforts to further strengthen the Programme's financial sustainability through the establishment of partnerships with other relevant organisations, non-traditional stakeholders and through the mobilisation of new and existing resources. This remains highly relevant for the 2022-23 TC cycle given the significant number of footnote-a projects and their estimated financing requirements.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

As the practical incorporation of gender considerations in the TC projects remains a challenge, we call on the Department of TC to continue mainstreaming gender in all

TC activities and to make use of the OIOS recommendations in this regard. The EU stands ready to cooperate closely with the Agency to further strengthen the IAEA's gender equality policy.

With these comments, the EU and its Member States support the recommended actions in document GOV/2021/45.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.