

General Conference

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(GC(47)/21)

Strengthening of the Agency's Technical Co-operation Activities

Resolution adopted on 19 September 2003 at the tenth session.

The General Conference,

- (a) Recalling resolution GC(46)/RES/10 on "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities",
- (b) Bearing in mind that the objectives of the Agency as stated in Article II of the Statute are "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to ensure that the assistance provided by it is not used "to further any military purpose",
- (c) Recalling that one of the statutory functions of the Agency is to "encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world",
- (d) Considering that the strengthening of technical co-operation activities relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy and its practical applications will substantially contribute to the well-being and help enrich the quality of life of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency,
- (e) Stressing the importance of the transfer of nuclear technology to the developing countries for sustaining and further enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby contributing to socio-economic development,
- (f) Aware of the significant number of footnote-a/ projects in the technical co-operation programme,
- (g) Conscious of the great potential of nuclear power for meeting increasing energy requirements in a number of countries, and of the need for sustainable development, including climate protection,

- (h) Also conscious of the need for the internationally recognized standards of safety to be applied in all uses of nuclear technology in order to protect mankind and the environment,
- (i) Desiring that the Agency's resources for technical co-operation activities be assured, predictable and sufficient to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute,
- (j) Noting the decision of the Board of Governors to recommend that for 2003 and 2004 the target for voluntary contributions to the Agency's Technical Co-operation Fund (TCF) shall remain, as previously agreed, at US\$ 74 750 000 in each of these years, that the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) for 2005 and 2006 shall be no less than US\$ 75 000 000, and that from 2005 onwards the TCF targets shall be negotiated taking into account the voluntary nature of the contributions to the TCF, based on the changes in the level of the Regular Budget and the price adjustment factor in the corresponding years,
- (k) Recalling the obligation of recipient Member States in regard to Assessed Programme Costs (APCs),
- (l) Expressing concern about the subsequent results of the Rate of Attainment mechanism as established by resolution GC(44)/RES/8,
- (m) Expressing appreciation to those Member States which have contributed to the TCF their full TCF target shares in a timely manner,
- (n) Expressing concern that some Member States do not contribute their full TCF target shares or do not contribute to the TCF at all,
- (o) Emphasizing the need to maintain an appropriate balance between the promotional activities and other statutory activities of the Agency,
- (p) Emphasizing the importance of the technical co-operation activities of the Agency, the financing of which should be guaranteed by, inter alia, results-based budgeting and the appropriate use of the Regular Budget in supporting and implementing those activities,
- (q) Recognizing that human resources development, expert services, fellowships, training courses and appropriate equipment supply continue to be important components of technical co-operation activities to ensure impact and sustainability,
- (r) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat in implementing the Technical Co-operation Strategy, including holding regional meetings for planning purposes, carrying out Country Programme Frameworks and Thematic Planning, efforts to ensure that projects meet the national priorities of Member States, and encouraging technical co-operation activities, particularly through technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC) and regional resource centres, partnerships in development, greater outreach, and in-house co-ordination, in line with the Technical Co-operation Management Principles (SEC/NOT/1790: Annex 1),
- (s) Reiterating the need to strengthen technical co-operation activities and to continuously enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes according to the requests and needs of Member States in all areas of concern in the Technical Co-operation Programme,
- (t) Appreciating that these programmes contribute to the achievement of national goals for sustainable development in TC-recipient Member States, particularly in developing countries and the least developed ones,

- (u) Also recognizing that national nuclear and other entities are important partners in the implementation of technical co-operation programmes in Member States and promote the use of nuclear and related technologies for achieving national development objectives, and
- (v) Taking note also with appreciation of the activities being developed by the Agency in the field of nuclear knowledge management, and particularly of the initiatives being emphasized by the technical co-operation programme in assisting national nuclear and other entities to enhance the basic infrastructure in this field, including safety aspects, and to further improve their capacity for self-reliance and sustainability,
1. Requests the Director General to continue to further develop and facilitate cost-sharing, outsourcing and other forms of Partnership in Development by reviewing and amending or simplifying, as appropriate, relevant financial and legal procedures and by developing a model arrangement and agreement for outsourcing;
 2. Requests the Secretariat to continue working with Member States, within relevant regional groups, in identifying regional resource centres and in developing and refining outsourcing mechanisms in the context of enhancing TCDC;
 3. Further requests the Director General to continue to take account of the views of the General Conference when requesting Member States to pledge and pay their respective shares of the TCF targets and to make timely payments to the TCF in accordance with resolution GC(44)/RES/8;
 4. Urges Member States to pay in full and on time their voluntary contributions to the TCF, and requests those recipient Member States which are in arrears in APCs to meet this obligation;
 5. Endorses the Board's decision to suspend the payment of Assessed Programme Costs (APCs) in 2004 on the understanding that a decision will be made on the future of APCs, including the possibility of their abolition, reduction or reinstatement, or the development of an appropriate alternative mechanism, following the presentation of the Secretariat's report on this matter to the June 2004 meetings of the Board of Governors;
 6. Endorses also the decision of the Board to request the Secretariat to inform it about the application of the due account mechanism to Member States;
 7. Stresses the need to strengthen technical co-operation activities, including the provision of sufficient resources, and to continually enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the programmes, and requests the Secretariat to continue to further refine the Technical Co-operation Strategy 2002 Review (GOV/INF/2002/8) in consultation with all Member States;
 8. Requests the Secretariat, starting with projects approved for the 2003–2004 technical co-operation programme, to play a more proactive role in seeking resources to implement footnote-a/ projects;
 9. Also requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the technical co-operation activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes aimed at promoting and improving the scientific, technological, research and regulatory capabilities of TC-recipient Member States, account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned, by continuing to assist them in their peaceful, safe, secure and regulated applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques in the fields of – inter alia – (a) food and agriculture, human health, industry, water resource management and environment, and (b) nuclear energy planning and production for those States pursuing nuclear power as a component of their sustainable energy mix in the 21st century, through relevant areas of importance as identified by Member States;

10. Requests the Director General to continue consultations and interactions with interested States, the competent organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development bodies and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies to ensure the co-ordination and optimization of complementary activities;
11. Requests the Director General to help interested Member States to obtain relevant information on (a) the role of nuclear power in mitigating GHG emissions, guided by the objective of sustainable development, and (b) the role of radiation and nuclear technology in mitigating polluting gases (FGs and GHGs), in managing agricultural and industrial wastes and effluents, and in improving water security, with particular emphasis on the use of electron beams and isotopes, and, where appropriate and requested by Member States, to assist in the preparation of potential technical co-operation projects;
12. Requests the Director General to make every effort to ensure, where relevant, that the Agency's TC Programme contributes to the promotion of key areas identified in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and further requests the Director General to keep Member States informed of the Agency's activities in this regard;
13. Emphasizes the need to understand the marketplace for nuclear technology and to further develop mechanisms and best practices for working with the private and the public sector;
14. Requests the Director General to promote, within the framework of the technical co-operation programme, activities supporting the self-reliance, sustainability and further relevance of national nuclear and other entities in Member States, particularly in developing countries, including encouraging regional and interregional co-operation on this issue; and,
15. Requests the Director General and the Board of Governors to remain seized of this matter and further requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its forty-eighth (2004) session on the implementation of this resolution under an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities".