International Atomic Energy Agency

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The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme - An Overview

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IAEA's Mandate

"….The IAEA shall seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world"

ARTICLE II OF THE STATUTE

IAEA's Authority

"To make provision for materials, services, equipment, and facilities to meet the needs of research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful purposes, including the production of electric power, with due consideration for the needs of developing areas of the world."

ARTICLE III OF THE STATUTE

Some quick facts

Number of Member States in 2003: 136.

Agency's mandate represented by three pillars: technology, safety, verification.

Organized into:

- **Technical Departments: Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Applications, Nuclear Safety and Security, Safeguards;**
- **Department of Management, and**
- **Department of Technical Co-operation.**

Approximately 2200 staff members.

Regular Budget: $245 million in 2002.

Technical Co-operation (TC) Programme

Managed by the TC Department, with backstopping from the Technical Departments.

Financed by the TC Fund, made up of Member States' contributions (90%), plus extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions.

Disbursements: $75 million in 2002. Over $1.2 bill. since 1957.

Over 700 active national, regional and interregional projects.

In the last decade the number of recipient countries has increased from 93 to 111:

- ***20 recipient countries are LDCs,***
- ***55 have small to medium atomic energy infrastructure,***
- ***17 have operating nuclear power plants; 6-8 are initiating or considering a nuclear power programme.***

TC Strategy, *revised in 2002*

Strategic goal: *to promote tangible socio-economic impact by contributing directly in a cost-effective manner to the achievement of the major sustainable development priorities of each country*.

Important elements:

- **Central Criterion:** *Projects should address areas of real need, in which there is a national programme enjoying government commitment and support.*
- **Thematic Planning:** *For identification of the most relevant techniques and best practices.*
- **Country Programme Frameworks:** *To focus on a limited number of priority areas for the TC Programme as agreed with Member States.*

Technical Co-operation programming

The TC programme, approved on a biennial basis by the Board of Governors, is based on **projects requested by Member States.**

Project requests are exclusively assessed in terms of **technical and practical feasibility, national development priorities** and **long-term advantages to end-users** (see *TC Strategy: IAEA GOV/INF/2002/8 30 May 2002).*

Preparation of the TC programme involves **substantial upstream work** with requesting parties.

In preparing the TC programme, the IAEA is **not** required to differentiate between NPT and non-NPT Member States.

Partnership in Development

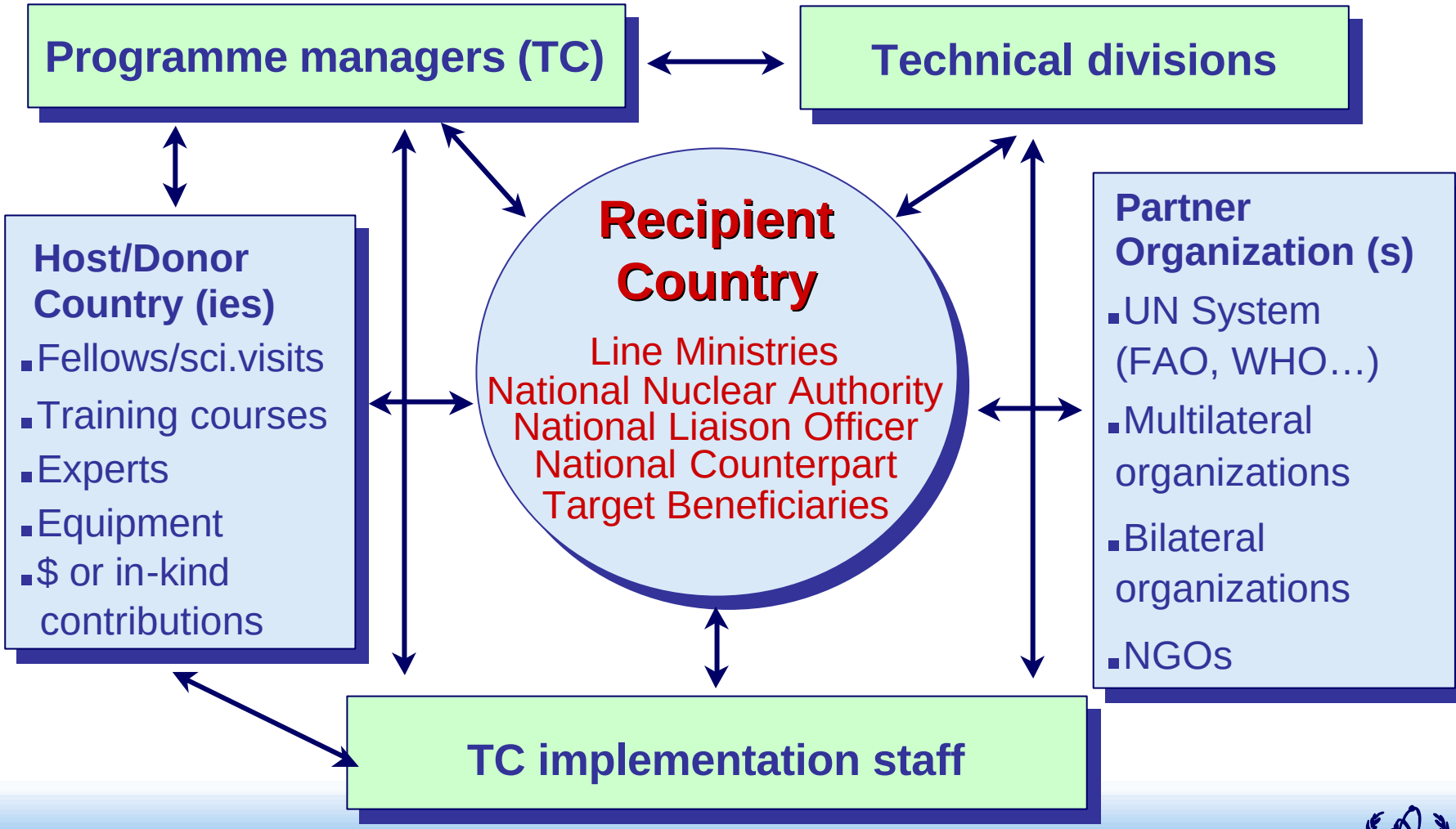
- **Financial:** Partnerships with donor organizations (World Bank, USAID, GEF).

- **Strategic:** Partnership with organizations such as WHO, FAO, in areas where nuclear techniques contribute to solving development problems.

- **Technical:** technical partnerships achieve synergy by combining nuclear and non-nuclear technologies, e.g. International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (Dubai), Musculo-skeletal Transplant Foundation (USA).

Stakeholders

National/Regional TC Project



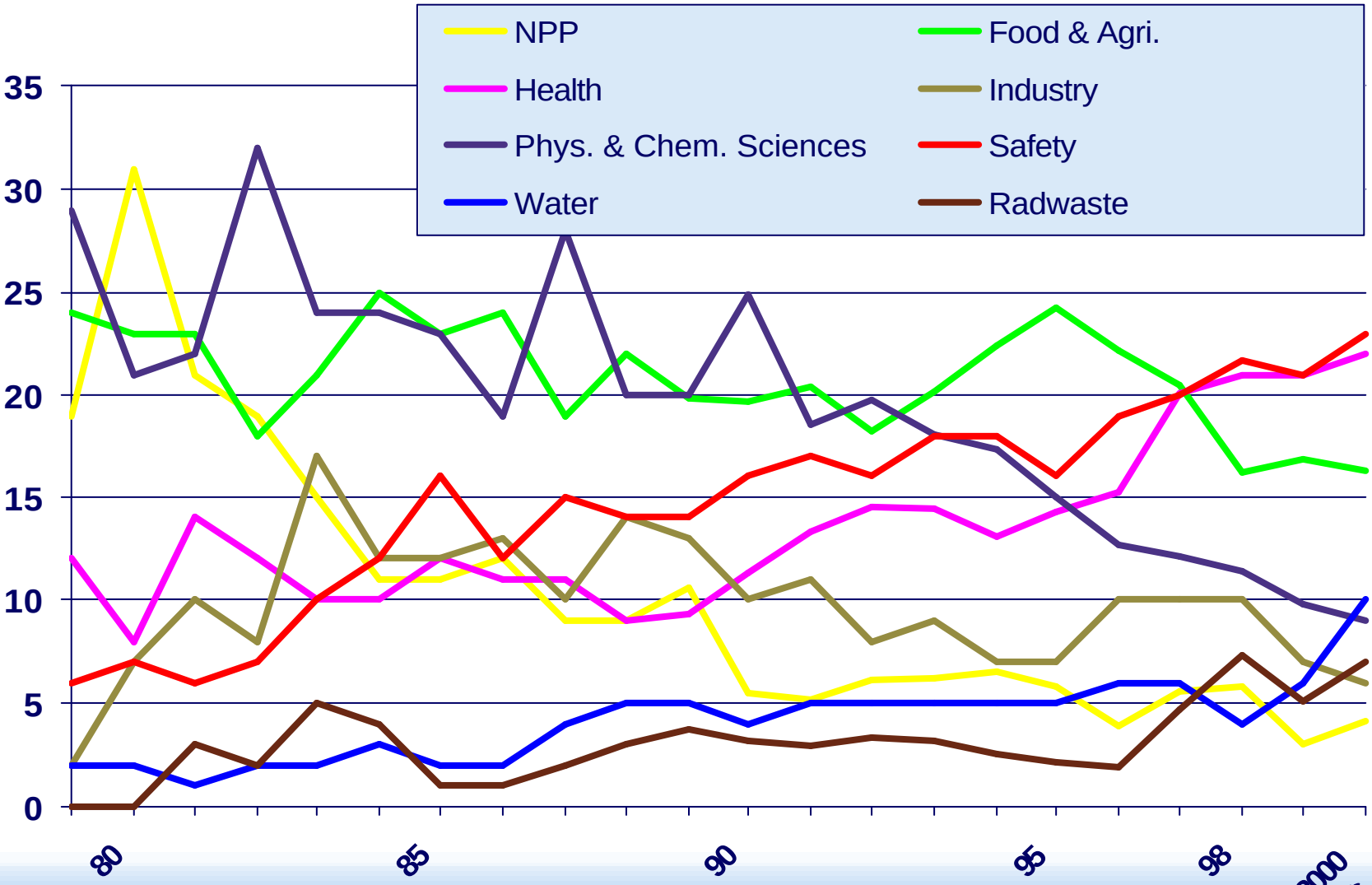
Sustainability, self-reliance and regional co-operation

- The Agency fosters the sustainable delivery of services to target beneficiaries by end-users after completion of TC Projects.

- TC strengthens capacity of institutions in Member States using nuclear technologies to become more technically and financially self-reliant.

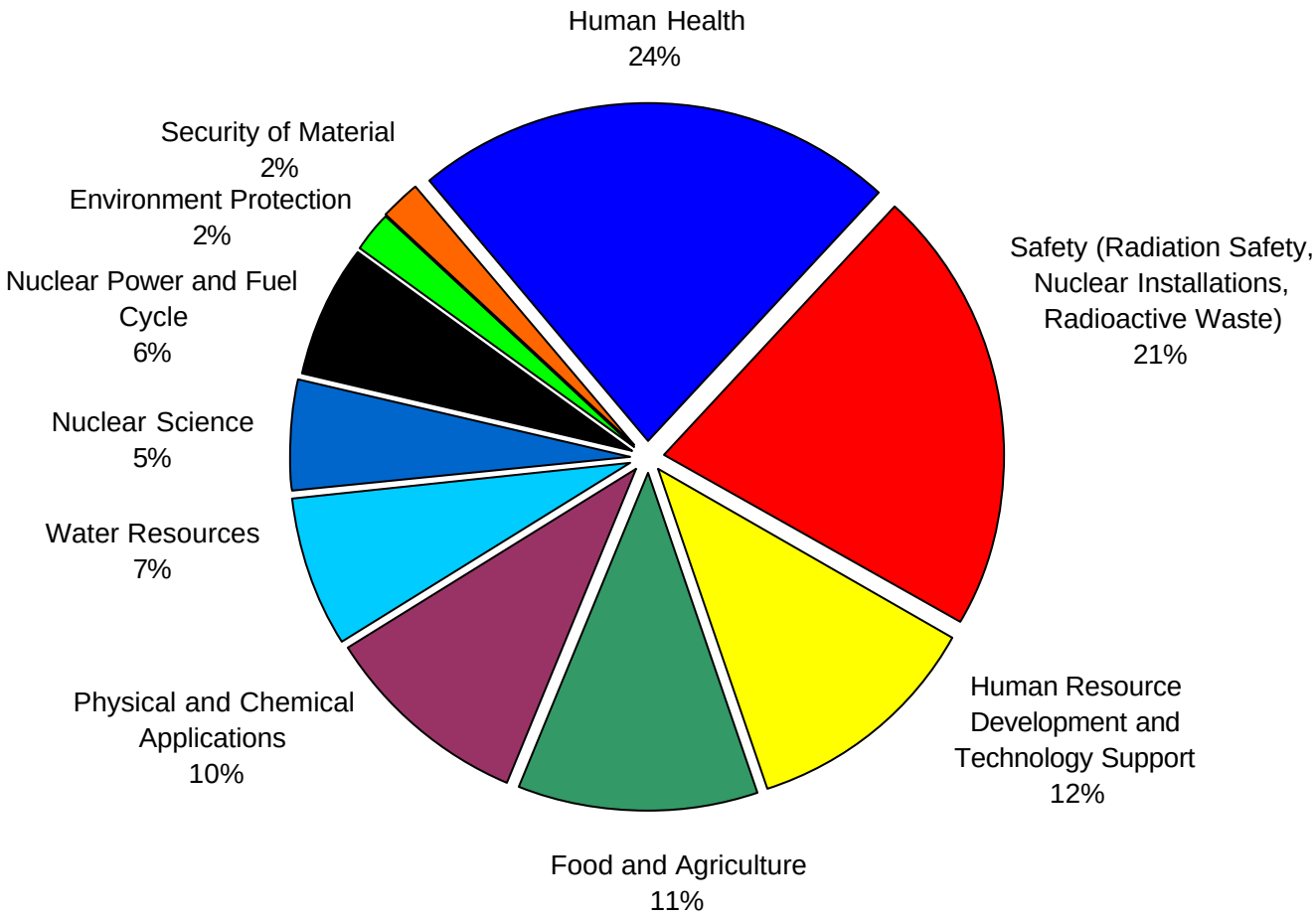
- Regional co-operation among developing countries:
  - sharing of resources and skills;
  - use of accredited Regional Centers.

Evolution of disbursements by programme area 1981-2000



TC Core-Programme 2003-2004

Major Thematic Areas



Main areas for co-operation in nuclear applications

- **Human health**: cancer diagnosis and therapy; variety of disease diagnoses; identification of drug-resistant strains; sterilization; nutrition studies.
- **Agriculture and food security**: development of new plant varieties; preservation of agricultural produce; control and eradication of pests.
- **Water resources**: mapping of underground aquifers; water pollution and recovery; dam safety and sustainability.
- **Environment**: environmental monitoring; management and remediation of contaminated zones.
- **Industry**: sterilization; non-destructive testing; production of radiopharmaceuticals; analytical quality control.
- **Sustainable energy development**: comparative assessments of energy sources; uses of nuclear energy.

Safety and safeguards

TC deals exclusively with peaceful applications.

Agency Safety Standards apply to all TC operations.

The application of basic safety standards for radiation protection in TC activities is a statutory function of the Agency.

Support is provided to set up or improve regulatory practices and radiation safety infrastructures as a prerequisite for most TC assistance.

All requests involving the provision of equipment and experts services are reviewed to determine whether safeguards are necessary.

All safeguards agreements are subject to approval by the IAEA Board of Governors.

Present trends and challenges

- Applications and uses of nuclear technologies are diversifying and increasing
- Countries and institutions are becoming more self-reliant as they increase their technical capacity and develop markets
- As facilities age, strategies for life extension acquire increased importance
- As the nuclear workforce ages, the management of nuclear knowledge is also gaining importance
- Yet the resources available for TC have increased at a rate much smaller than the number of Member States and the needs of recipient countries.

International Atomic Energy Agency

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