

Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

Objective

To contribute to sustainable and significant social and economic benefits in Member States and their increased self-reliance in the application of nuclear techniques.

Further Strengthening of the Technical Cooperation Programme

One of the major tasks of the Agency in 2006 was the design of the technical cooperation programme for the 2007–2008 cycle, which was approved by the Board of Governors in November. This task was realized in parallel with the ongoing implementation of the programme and the development of new programme management tools. Another important milestone in 2006 was the agreement by Member States on a target of \$80 million per year in the coming biennium for the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF).

Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF)

For the first time, the technical cooperation programme was designed using the PCMF, a new approach to managing the programme supported by a web based platform. The screening and design of projects was accomplished in a transparent and interactive manner, with Member States made aware of the details of their national programmes that would be discussed with the Secretariat at the time of the General Conference.

Country Programme Frameworks

The Secretariat assisted Member States in the preparation of their Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) following the release of the new CPF guidelines. Altogether, 100 CPFs have been prepared: 78 have been signed by Member States and the Agency, while 22 are still in the draft stage.

NLO Working Group

The National Liaison Officer (NLO) is the principal interlocutor between the Secretariat and governments regarding the technical cooperation programme. Following a recommendation of the Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Cooperation (SAGTAC), guidelines have been drafted for Member States on the roles and responsibilities of NLOs. These guidelines are intended to improve the quality of communication between stakeholders and the Secretariat, and contribute to the smooth delivery of the technical cooperation programme.

Framework for Regional Programming

In recognition of the importance of regional programmes, and following recommendations from SAGTAC, working groups were established to review regional programming from the strategic, operational and management perspectives. The groups recommended the development of strategies, reflecting the needs, interests and priorities of Member States in each region, to provide direction in line with the Technical Cooperation Strategy.

Gender Policy

Agency efforts to develop a policy that promotes gender considerations in all of its programme work has been accompanied by an initiative, in cooperation with the Vienna based Permanent Missions, to identify actions designed to attract more well qualified women as candidates for recruitment in the Professional and higher categories. In addition, within the technical cooperation programme, a provisional gender policy and action plan were established aimed at highlighting gender considerations in the development and implementation of the programme.

Financial highlights

The technical cooperation programme is growing rapidly, with new obligations in 2006 totalling

“For the first time, the technical cooperation programme was designed using the PCMF, a new approach to managing the programme supported by a web based platform.”

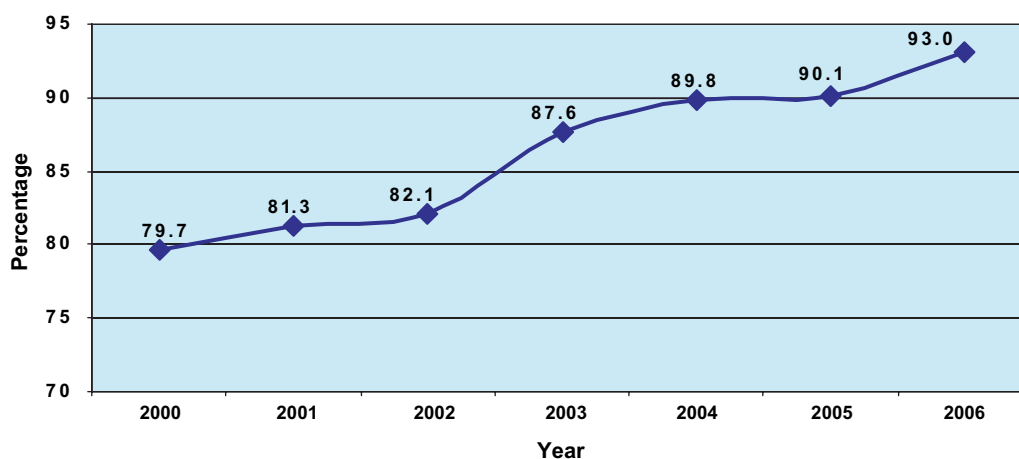


FIG. 1. Rate of attainment of the TCF between 2000 and 2006.

\$105 million, compared with \$80 million in 2005. This growth reflects increasing Member State support, through both the TCF and extrabudgetary contributions. In 2006, extrabudgetary contributions climbed to nearly \$22.5 million, compared with \$15 million for 2005. Of this amount, government cost sharing also showed significant growth, from over \$5 million in 2005 to more than \$9.4 million in 2006. Finally, the rate of attainment (i.e. Member State payments towards the TCF target), which exceeded 90% for the 2005 target, reached 93% for 2006 (Fig. 1).

Legislative Assistance to Member States

During 2006, the Agency provided assistance to 12 Member States through written comments and advice in drafting national nuclear legislation. In addition, at the request of Member States, individual training on issues related to nuclear legislation, was also provided to 17 fellows. As a new initiative to provide further legislative assistance to Member States in Africa, a fellowship programme was established in 2006 for individuals from these States to receive training at the Agency in order to acquire experience in international nuclear law.

A number of training courses and workshops were held during the year on nuclear law and legislation. For example, a training course for lawyers, held in

April 2006, provided information on the Agency's nuclear security activities, as well as the relevant international nuclear security instruments, with the aim of establishing a pool of nuclear legal experts available for the Agency's nuclear security advisory, evaluation and response missions and reviews. At a workshop held in October, diplomats were given an introduction to nuclear law that included presentations on international law for nuclear safety and security, and safeguards and non-proliferation, as well as an overview of the Agency's legislative assistance programme in these areas. A meeting for senior government officials from the Asia-Pacific region was held in November in Kuala Lumpur. Among other things, the meeting provided information on the international instruments dealing with nuclear safety, security and safeguards, including recent developments in these areas. And a seminar for the African region, held in December in Vienna facilitated an in-depth self-assessment of the national nuclear legislation of the participating Member States.

A new IAEA International Law Series was established in 2006. The first two publications in this series bring together in a more convenient format the official records and other relevant documents relating to the negotiations of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management and the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. ■